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New York

President:	Ms. Wallström	(Sweden)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mrs. Cordova Soría
	China	Mr. Yao Shaojun
	Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Djedje
	Equatorial Guinea	Mr. Ndong Mba
	Ethiopia	Ms. Guadey
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Kuwait	Mr. Alotaibi
	Netherlands	Mr. Van Oosterom
	Peru	Mr. Meza-Cuadra
	Poland	Mr. Radomski
	Russian Federation	Mr. Polyanskiy
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mrs. Haley

Agenda

Peace and security in Africa

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace and security in Africa

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Security Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Chad to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Bineta Diop, African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to warmly welcome the Deputy Secretary-General, Her Excellency Ms. Amina Mohammed, to whom I now give the floor.

The Deputy Secretary-General: Let me begin by thanking the President of the Security Council for convening today's meeting on women and peace and security in the Sahel, as well as for Sweden's leadership on this issue during the country's time in the Security Council.

Yesterday I returned from a joint United Nations-African Union mission to three countries — South Sudan, the Niger and Chad. That mission was the second of its kind, following last year's high-level visit to Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. When I reported back to the Security Council at that time (see S/PV.8022) — marking the first time the Security Council heard a briefing on women and peace and security in relation to a country situation — members of the Council requested further trips of this nature, a request that I am pleased to report we took forward. I would like to thank the people and the Governments of South Sudan, Chad and the Niger.

We were joined in the Niger and Chad by Foreign Minister Wallström in her capacity as President of the Security Council for July. At various points on the trip, we were also joined by senior United Nations colleagues, including the Executive Directors of UN-Women and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and his Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa, and representatives of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. We were also joined by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and the Special Adviser on the Sahel. I was very proud to lead a delegation in which women made up the majority.

Our purpose was to highlight issues of women and peace and security and development. Throughout the trip, we met with women civil society leaders, community representatives and religious and traditional chiefs. We visited many development projects, and then met with local authorities, senior Government officials and Heads of State to discuss the key challenges and opportunities that exist and to convey the voices and messages that we had heard from women. Four issues resonated most dramatically.

The first was the need to address the stark cost that women and girls pay for conflict. That was particularly evident in South Sudan, where we visited women in protection-of-civilian sites who spoke of the violence they face both inside and outside the camps. It was also borne out in the stories of women in rural areas of Chad, where the impact of Boko Haram has resulted in insecurity, loss of family members and the increased use of female suicide bombers.

Secondly, we heard a universal and increasingly frustrated call by women for greater inclusion, representation and participation in all areas of society. They demand greater participation in decision-making. In Juba in South Sudan, in Addis Ababa and in Khartoum they asked that their voices be heard in the peace process. In Chad and the Niger they advocated for the implementation of legislation on a quota for political participation and the recognition of their role in the economy and in preventing violent extremism.

Greater representation at the community level is a further imperative. The women religious leaders we met in Chad are a very powerful voice against gender inequality and against the attacks on women's rights that are such a core part of terrorist groups' strategy and identity. By teaching the Qur'an, they are sending a message that the Qur'an and Islam are for both men and women and that Islam is a religion of peace.

Women are also seeking greater inclusion in the economy. In the Bol region of the Lake Chad basin we saw the multiple roles fisherwomen were playing

in maintaining livelihoods in the absence of men who had been killed and in building community resilience in the face of environmental degradation and insecurity caused by the Boko Haram insurgency. Such models, if scaled up, have the potential to generate economic dividends for the country. We reminded leaders that inclusion is not a woman's issue; it is, rather, a whole-of-society issue.

Thirdly, there is a clear need to keep countries experiencing fragility today from becoming failed States tomorrow. Chad and the Niger are dealing with challenges that are largely not of their making, including insecurity that originated beyond their borders and climate change, which respects no borders at all. Despite their own constraints, they are among the world's most generous hosts of refugees. But the impact on their economies and development aspirations has been profound. The President of the Niger, for example, presented to us his renaissance plan to meet the basic needs of the country's population, but it has been hampered by the fall in uranium and oil prices and the expenditures on security. Security therefore comes at a price; all too often it comes at the expense of development.

In that context, it is critical that we all step up, which means urgently increasing our budget support for development in those and other fragile countries. It is a matter, first and foremost, of human dignity. But it is also a matter of peace and security. Investment in development must be transformative: it must support scaled-up, integrated projects such as we saw in the Niger when we visited the United Nations programme that brought together health, nutrition, agriculture, water and sanitation, alongside women's empowerment, recognizing the context of climate change. I am confident that the reforms that we are pursuing in the United Nations will provide the necessary space to scale up such interventions.

With today's conflicts being greater in both number and complexity, it is more important than ever to find the path to peacebuilding and sustainable development for all. Across the three countries we visited, it is evident that women can be the agents of a new and necessary approach — a new narrative, a new paradigm.

We sensed during our visit an increasingly pressing need to operationalize the policies, frameworks and agendas that we have in place. For 18 years, the Security Council has discussed the agenda item of women and peace and security in annual thematic debates. Once a year we assert that gender equality is foundational to stability and peace. But rarely have we moved beyond the principles. We believe that now is the time to move from frameworks to action. Investing in peace now in this region will bring lasting global dividends for all.

With resolution 1325 (2000) and the seven resolutions that build on it we have the necessary commitments. We have tools such as a recalibrated United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. We must now bring these tools and commitments to life, while encouraging further alignment among the United Nations Support Plan for the Sahel, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063 and, most important, national plans.

The cost of inaction is high. Poverty, weak institutions and gender inequality, including the abhorrent practices such as child marriage, are creating an environment ripe for extremism. I thank members of the Council again for supporting such joint missions, which we believe contribute greatly to advancing the work of the Council. We look forward to working together to draw the appropriate lessons towards building lives of peace, security and equality for all.

The President: I thank the Deputy Secretary-General for her briefing.

I now give the floor to Ms. Diop.

Ms. Diop (*spoke in French*): Allow me to echo Ms. Amina Mohammed in congratulating you, Madam Minister, on Sweden's assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. I wish you every success during your term.

I would also like to seize this opportunity to thank His Excellency Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, who wholeheartedly lent his support to the joint mission of the United Nations, the African Union and Sweden that has just concluded under the leadership of Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, with the effective participation of Ms. Wallström.

The mission is at the heart of our meeting this morning. It fits perfectly alongside the call for action of the African Women Leaders Network, which is a movement of women working in all sectors of society, including among young women and women from rural areas. It is a movement that aims to mobilize efforts to transform Africa and thereby contribute to a prosperous

and peaceful Africa. The Network is supported by the United Nations and the African Union through the Office of the Special Envoy and UN-Women, as well as the Federal Republic of Germany.

It is often said that there is no peace and security without development, and no development without peace. But it can also be said that there is no peace, security and development without the effective participation of women. If further proof of that were needed, the mission of solidarity that we have just carried out in South Sudan, Chad and the Niger highlighted once again the poignant realities of women and girls who suffer the effects of deprivation that arise from the abundance of attention that States must pay to military security to combat radicalization and violent extremism.

As members of the Council know, the Lake Chad and Sahel regions are being hit by the full force of the extremists of Boko Haram and other radicalized groups. Faced with that threat, which is so grave that it can endanger a State, such as Mali, the States of the region have mobilized to fight that evil, which strikes indiscriminately and across borders. For those States, the resources of which are already among the most meagre in the world, security efforts have no impact on investments in social structures, and consequently there is a weak response in meeting the needs of their people. In the Lake Chad region, success against Boko Haram has led to the return of many young people who now, unfortunately, find themselves unemployed, feel abandoned and, as such, fall easy prey to the return of radicalized groups.

In the Niger, we have seen the devastating effects of poverty and the lack of opportunity for families, and their impact on young people, especially young women and, may I say, on children becoming child brides, which leads not just to physical but also to mental trauma. I have long travelled through conflict zones. I have seen atrocities committed by armed groups — girls and young boys raped, for example. Nevertheless, in the region that we visited, an issue that particularly marked me was that of child marriage, with its consequences of bodies completely battered by fistulas, as well as the ostracization, stigmatization and abandonment of those children. The only clinic available in the entire region, where the majority of the people are women and the majority of those women are under 18 years old, had only one doctor to attend to the harm done to the bodies of those young girls. It is true that the practice of early marriage existed before the rise of radicalization, but the exacerbation of poverty among families displaced by conflict seems to have pushed them to give their daughters away to arranged marriages, the consequences of which include the girls giving birth far too early and them suffering from broken bodies and spirits. They are abandoned by society. Is that not a recipe for them to turn towards radicalization and violent extremism?

Alongside the troubling reality of the effects of conflicts on women and youth, our mission was also saw the resilience of women and their determination to contribute to the search for solutions. In Chad, religious women leaders, as Ms. Amina Mohammed mentioned, shared with us their innovative strategies at the community level to prevent the radicalization of young people and to meet the threats posed by armed groups, such as Boko Haram. They focus their efforts on the education of children, above all young girls, who then become active agents against violent extremism. They seek to convey an inclusive interpretation of the Koran with a view to promoting dialogue for peace. We will support Chad as it seeks to implement its national action plan under resolution 1325 (2000), including on issues related to the prevention of and fight against violent extremism through the gender perspective.

In the Niger, women used the national action plan under resolution 1325 (2000) as a tool for their voices to be heard in decision-making processes on peace, security and development in the country. Women are undeniably victims of violence, whether directly linked to conflicts or as victims of practices that are exacerbated by conflicts. Women are also agents of change in spearheading initiatives to respond to the challenges facing them. The efforts of those women in their communities show that the response to the security challenges faced by the regions that we have just visited require investment in the development of individuals so as to prevent radicalization and violent extremism, which has become the scourge of the Sahel. That underpins the importance of investing in education, as well as the need to build the capacities of women and youth by providing them with employment opportunities. They called for a more sustained presence of the State and the international community to meet the basic needs of health care, water and food, the lack of which is often harnessed by extremist groups to attract to their cause certain marginalized

factions of the population. It is indeed better to prevent than to cure.

I welcome the leadership of Senegal in steering the first Security Council debate on water, peace and security, which took place in November 2016 (see S/PV.7818). Our joint mission of the African Union, the United Nations and Sweden once again underscored the key role that water plays in our society.

Allow me to take this opportunity to commend, from this rostrum, the efforts undertaken by Chad and the Niger in the fight against violent extremism, which, as I mentioned earlier, leads to exclusion and poverty in the affected regions and only further entrenches the cycle of violence. It is important that those efforts be supported by the international community in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, above all to ensure that security does not come at the expense of the peoples' needs.

There are already initiatives, such as the coordination platform of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, which brings together the majority of stakeholders for the benefit of the countries and communities in the Sahel to mobilize resources and define regional priorities. The African Union also established a strategy for the Sahel region, which was adopted by the Peace and Security Council. We have also recently set up another programme, together with the Economic Community of West African States and the Lake Chad Basin, which is aimed at strengthening the capacities of the Multinational Joint Task Force. However, resources remain limited and continue to be directed more to military actions than to meeting the needs of the people.

Before concluding this statement, I would like to share some recommendations that I believe are important and that have emerged from our visit to the Sahel region.

First, the fight for security in the countries concerned can be won by meeting the needs of the people, especially women and young people, who are victims but who have also demonstrated their determination to address the challenges they face. But they cannot do it alone. I therefore appeal to the international community to step up its aid.

Secondly, prevention is needed, including through sizeable investments in education, the management of natural resources such as water, job creation and the protection of women and young girls and promotion of their role and leadership in the search for peace.

Women should the first partners of choice. Each woman must be empowered to be able to say "no" to conflict, "no" to early marriage and "no" to extremism. Women must be able to read the Qur'an and convey the message of peace contained therein to their children. I welcome the fact that the political leaders that we met during our mission reassured us of their determination to make women and young people the drivers of political and economic change in their countries. Indeed, peace and security efforts will be successful only when we take robust action to defend the nexus of peace, security and development and to integrate the gender perspective in our instruments for conflict prevention and resolution. That is what women and the African people are expecting from the Council.

The President: I thank Ms. Diop for her briefing.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden.

Yesterday morning, the Deputy Secretary-General; the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security; and I arrived in New York from Niger. It was my privilege to join Amina and Bineta on that joint high-level mission focused on women, peace and security in the Sahel. It is also now my pleasure to welcome my travel companions to today's meeting. As they have done already, I would like to thank the Governments of the Niger and Chad for their generous hospitality, and the inspiring women and men we met during our mission for sharing their stories with us.

I would like to make three points following our mission: first, on the overall challenges in the region, secondly, how we must address the interrelated nature of these challenges, and thirdly, that all this is not a women's issue — it is a peace and security issue.

The countries we visited and the Sahel region are located between hope and despair. There is hope, because the Sahel is blessed with abundant human, cultural and natural resources — for example, solar energy, which offers tremendous capital for rapid growth. It is also the most youthful region of the world, with 64.5 per cent of the population aged less than 25 years.

Hope was inspired also by the women and girls we met, who had moved from being victims to survivors to agents of change; by youth, who look to their futures with confidence despite their difficult circumstances; and by

the vibrant and determined civil society organizations working to improve the lives of men, women, girls and boys across the region. We also heard from the Governments of Chad and the Niger about their efforts, undertaken together with other countries in the region, to promote regional stability and combat terrorism, including through the Multinational Joint Task Force and the Group of Five for the Sahel Joint Force.

However, there is also despair because of chronic underdevelopment, terrorism and violent extremism, a lack of respect for human rights and the negative effects of climate change. There are 24 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, and the growing insecurity has worsened vulnerabilities. Today, the national budgets are used to finance security concerns, as we already heard, with less money available for education and health. Those challenges affect women and men, boys and girls differently. Women often bear a disproportionate burden.

In the Lake Chad region, where people are already facing a food and nutrition crisis, we heard how the shrinking of the Lake and growing insecurity have had severe consequences for people who traditionally have sustained themselves by fishing activities. However, now, women are learning to fish. They said that before the fish were this big and men did the fishing; now the fish are this small and we can fish. The fisherwomen we met in Bol told us that they wished for only three things: bigger boats, better nets and to not get raped. That simple request illustrates the conditions under which they live, marked by poverty and sexual and gender-based violence.

In both Chad and the Niger, we met with civil society representatives who described challenges such as a lack of female candidates for public offices, inadequate health care and difficulties in ensuring education for girls. In the Niger, we heard that three out of four girls will be married before turning 18, with devastating consequences, as Ms. Diop has already said. We met with women religious leaders and discussed efforts to prevent radicalization and to end the practice of child marriages. We were encouraged to see that in both countries, women were coming together in networks to address the challenges they face, including sexual and reproductive health and rights and access to basic social services.

Secondly, this joint mission encompassed all aspects of the United Nations work — peace and security, human rights, humanitarian assistance and development. It was once again clear to me, during our mission, how those areas of work overlap. The many challenges in the Sahel cannot be dealt with separately, but rather require joint political strategies and integrated responses.

The United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel and its support plan are key tools at our disposal to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Gender equality and women's empowerment is one of the Strategy's five key priorities. We must spare no effort in ensuring implementation. We need to expand the choices and opportunities available to women from an early age. That means ensuring education for girls, addressing restrictive traditional and related social norms, and fighting poverty. It means going back to basics, starting where we can make a difference.

Yet, the resources needed to fully address the challenges in the region are woefully inadequate. We need to step up our efforts to mobilize support and strengthen national capacities to respond to inequalities, fight impunity, create sustainable livelihoods and empower and educate women and girls. Aid must be gender-sensitive and take into account the various situations in which women and men find themselves, as well as promoting equality.

Thirdly, our visit also underscored that all of this taken together is not solely a women's issue — it is a peace and security issue. In the Lac region of Chad we were deeply moved by Halima, who had been married off as a 15-year-old child and then trained by Boko Haram to be a suicide bomber. She lost both her legs when the suicide vests of some of the girls who had been trained with her exploded as they entered a busy market. Today Halima is a paralegal and is actively engaged in the prevention of violent extremism, as well as being a powerful symbol of the many roles of women in peace and security.

The increased use of female suicide bombers — two thirds of suicide attacks in 2017 were carried out by women or girls — illustrates the cruel way in which terrorists seek to exploit the perceived goodness of women to maximize harm, to the victims of suicide bombings and to communities and families. That is disastrous given women's role as pillars of families, societies and communities. Societies could collapse, but nonetheless women continue to fight. We must empower

and educate girls and women and end child marriage. To fight terrorism, there is no doubt, we need adopt a gender-sensitive and human rights-based approach, whether it pertains to the prevention of radicalization, counter-terrorism operations or providing support to victims.

Let me end by answering the question of why this is a matter for those around this table, a matter for the Security Council. It is because women's destiny is also our destiny. Therefore, what can and must we do? In two years resolution 1325 (2000) will be 20 years old. I would like to put the following challenge to the United Nations system and all Member States: by 2020 ensure that United Nations peacekeeping and political missions fully deliver on the women and peace and security agenda. The Security Council has a critical role to play, including by ensuring that women's voices are heard around peace negotiation tables and in the Chamber; mission mandates include a women and peace and security perspective; gender posts in missions continue to be funded; women and peace and security tasks are adequately resourced and prioritized; and that gender is systematically included in mission reporting and monitoring.

We must all set the same challenge for ourselves. Members can count on Sweden to do its part to support that effort. To start, we will continue to ensure that civil society perspectives are heard in the Chamber. For the annual debate on resolution 1325 (2000), we commit to hosting a civil society forum. We also commit to supporting the Secretariat to build capacity for enhanced gender-responsive reporting. Only then will we gain a full understanding of the challenges and of the most effective responses.

Let us continue to intensify our efforts to support the countries of the Sahel on the issues we have discussed today. I commend the African Union and the United Nations for joining forces and deepening their partnership on the issue of women and peace and security. Missions such as the one undertaken last week should become annual events, and every Security Council meeting should consider the women and peace and security perspective as an essential part of our work to end conflicts. I have no doubt that if we were to do so, our motto of "more women, more peace" would become a reality.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I shall now give the floor to the other members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Meza-Cuadra (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): We area gratefu for the convening of today's meeting. We also thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and Ms. Bineta Diop, African Union Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, for their important briefings. Similarly, we welcome you, Madam Minister, and thank you for your valuable testimony and proposals on the important joint mission, which underscores the commitment of your country, Sweden, to the women and peace and security agenda.

Peru remains deeply concerned about the critical situation in the Sahel region, where women and girls in particular are affected by food insecurity, poverty, armed conflict, violent extremism, gender discrimination and sexual violence. It is estimated that one in 10 women between the ages of 15 and 49 has been the victim of sexual violence in Mali. Women and children in the Niger account for the majority of refugees and internally displaced persons. Throughout the subregion there is an increase in the number of women and girls recruited by terrorists and violent extremist groups. That situation requires a comprehensive and coordinated strategy that addresses its root causes, promoting, among other things, women's empowerment, gender equality and access to justice.

Peru is convinced that the participation of women in political life and decision-making is crucial for conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. We must promote greater participation by women in the processes and mechanisms for implementing peace and reconciliation agreements. At the same time, their empowerment must be promoted through education and the creation of employment opportunities, as well as when it comes to access to justice and the fight against impunity for the crimes of which they are victims. Victims must have confidence in their national institutions and those responsible for violence must be held accountable. Women and girls who are victims of sexual violence are often stigmatized and ostracized in their communities. They must be able to count on programmes to promote their rehabilitation and reintegration.

It is essential that the Council remain united with regard to the gradual development and implementation of the women and peace and security agenda. That is because the evidence shows that the protection of

women and girls during conflict, and, ultimately, their empowerment, has a direct impact on sustaining peace. In that regard, we underscore the importance of promoting work among the various women's organizations and the informal group of experts on women and peace and security, which Peru has the honour to co-chair with Sweden.

We also believe that it is necessary for the Security Council to collaborate with and promote the work of the regional mechanisms involved in the quest for solutions to the crisis in the Sahel, such as the African Union, the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel) and the Economic Community of West African States. We believe that is important to take into account the gender perspective when implementing the activities of the Joint Force of the G-5 Sahel. Similarly, with regard to the reform of peacekeeping operations, Blue Helmets must receive adequate training on protecting the human rights of women and girls.

We welcome the priority that the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel accords to such issues, with the support of the African Union, with a view to strengthening governance, security and development in the region. We emphasize the importance of providing it with adequate resources.

In conclusion, we wish to stress that the joint visits by the United Nations and the African Union are important tools for coordinating efforts in the quest for peace and stability in the region. We welcome the recent visit by Ms. Amina Mohammed and Ms. Bineta Diop and encourage more such visits in future.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): I thank Her Excellency Ms. Margot Wallström, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, for convening today's meeting. It is a pleasure to have you with us again, Madam President.

I would also like to warmly thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and the African Union Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, Ms. Bineta Diop, for their insightful briefings on their joint mission to the countries of the Sahel. I join others in commending all three women for their inspirational leadership.

We are heartened by increasing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) in supporting Africa's steady pursuit of peace, stability and sustainable development. We encourage further strengthening of that cooperation, while underscoring the important role of women in reaching those objectives. The recent high-level joint visit was another significant step to promote the women and peace and security agenda and advance gender empowerment. Such collaborative efforts must continue so as to achieve the goals of the Joint United Nations-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and reach the targets of 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Turning to the implementation of the women and peace and security commitments in the Sahel, we commend the joint efforts of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel and of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to support the participation of women in conflict prevention, including through the ECOWAS 2017-2020 action plan for women, peace and security. We also see the benefits of their convening, last April, a high-level conference on women, violence and terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel, which resulted in a call to action to increase women's participation in preventing violent extremism. Our delegation praises the African Union for progressively gender mainstreaming within the African Peace and Security Architecture and greatly appreciates the efforts of the African Women Leaders Network, which was launched last year by the AU Commission, UN-Women and Germany to enhance the leadership of women in the transformation of Africa. We also acknowledge the important role of women's organizations in improving women's access to leadership and participation in peace processes and encourage Member States to strengthen their engagement with women's and youth groups.

It nevertheless remains imperative that a conscious effort be made to bridge the gap between spoken commitments and actual actions. We need to ensure a protective environment that will enhance women's protection and security, and provide access to justice and services for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. We also emphasize the importance of a gender perspective across all components of operations of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, as set out in resolution 2391 (2017). Much remains to be done in fulfilling United Nations recommendations regarding the inclusion of women in peace talks to resolve the Sahel crisis, while ensuring a 30 per cent quota for women in decision-making and politics in the region and allocating 15 per cent of national budgets

for development and peacebuilding to promote gender equality in the Sahel.

There is also an urgent need to focus on the structural drivers of instability and the root causes of the conflict that disproportionately affect women by reducing poverty, strengthening local governance, providing basic services, creating better opportunities for education and employment and mitigating the impact of climate change. The close link between security and development is very important not only in one specific country, but also in the region and the world as a whole. We therefore welcome the recent launch of the revitalized strategic plan for the Sahel on the sidelines of the AU Summit in Nouakchott, which targets six key areas, including the empowerment of women. We strongly support other subregional and comprehensive approaches aimed at building resilience and increasing peace and development in the region, such as the Alliance for the Sahel initiative.

We welcomed United Nations reform on repositioning the development system to foster greater cooperation among various United States agencies on the ground. Today we must go further and ensure greater cooperation at the regional level to advance the development agenda in a comprehensive and effective manner. However, financing the women and peace and security agenda remains a concern. We must therefore provide the funds needed to ensure that peacekeeping and political missions are provided with sufficient gender expertise, authority and capacity. That funding gap can partially be overcome by more substantive reforms, streamlined and better-coordinated strategies within the United Nations system and improved cooperation with other partners in the region and globally. Enhanced data-collection and reporting are also very important for the success of the women and peace and security agenda. What is required is an increased availability of timely and accurate national gender-disaggregated data and reports on progress towards implementing and monitoring those commitments.

In conclusion, I reiterate that Kazakhstan will always stand for the full contribution of women in all phases of mediation, conflict resolution, post-conflict recovery and long-term development through the joint efforts of the United Nations and the African Union.

Mr. Van Oosterom (Netherlands): In honour of the Swedish presidency of the Security Council, let me try to say "thank you very much" in Swedish: *tack så mycket*. We are very grateful to you, Madam President, for organizing this debate. It is important to continue to ask that attention be paid to the meaningful participation of women in matters concerning peace and security, as we did on 8 March concerning Afghanistan (see S/PV.8199, and in almost every thematic meeting of the Security Council, including our discussion on the Sahel today.

In our view, advocating for the meaningful participation of women is the right thing to do, as it has concrete, positive effects on peace and security. We sincerely thank you, Mada President, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Special Envoy of the African Union for briefing the Security Council on the joint visit. It shows how useful joint African Union (AU)-United Nations high-level missions are as a means to deepen the AU-United Nations partnership. In particular, we were impressed with their meeting with victims of sexual violence and those who may easily fall prey to the latter. You touched us, Madam President, when you spoke of the women in Bol who wished only not to be raped.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is deeply appalled by those horrific acts of sexual violence, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice. This debate allows us to shed light on the critical role of women in issues of peace and security in the broader Sahel region. In that context, I will focus on three issues: first, the security implications of climate change on women; secondly, the challenges posed by the widespread conflict between farmers and herders; and, thirdly, the importance of women's participation in decision-making.

Concerning my first point, the security implications of climate change, the latter disproportionately affects women in the Sahel, especially owing to its effects on stability and security, which was underscored by the concrete examples that you gave in your briefing, Madam President. Climate change increases the number of livelihoods lost as a result of conflict. It decreases women's access to essential resources, such as water, thereby reinforcing the negative consequences of conflict for women. As elsewhere, those most vulnerable in the Sahel become even more vulnerable, and too often that means that women and girls are the most affected. In that light, our responses to peace and security challenges in the Sahel must be both climate and gender sensitive. In that context, we reiterate the need for adequate risk assessments and risk-management

strategies. The Council already emphasized that point in resolution 2349 (2017) and has repeatedly recalled it since then.

That leads me to my second point. Climate change intensifies conflicts between farmers and herders in the Lake Chad region and the wider Sahel region. Such conflicts have devastating effects for women and girls. Widows are evicted from their farmland. Women and girls become even more vulnerable to economic predation and sexual violence and exploitation. Conflicts between farmers and herders are reportedly now killing more women and girls than the Boko Haram crisis, and Boko Haram by itself was the cause of a staggering 1,000 cases of conflict-related sexual violence last year in Nigeria alone. Conflicts between farmers and herders are becoming multidimensional threats affecting the entire subregion. We join the Secretary-General in calling on the Economic Community of West African States and its States members to develop regional, long-term and integrated strategies in response. We feel that the United Nations system should support that, and it is important to develop those strategies in consultation with affected communities, in particular with women's participation.

Lastly, concerning participation, you, Madam President, and others rightly spoke of the vital role of women's participation in decision-making.

We had an open debate on peacekeeping on 28 March (see S/PV.8218), at which we heard a briefing by Fatimata Touré of Mali. She spoke of the severe underrepresentation of women in the mechanisms set up for the implementation and monitoring of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, in which currently only 3 per cent of the people involved are women. That number is way too low. In resolution 2423 (2018), the Security Council rightly urged the Malian parties to ensure women's equal and meaningful participation.

The Deputy Secretary-General visited Nigeria last year. She was able to obtain an agreement that the food distribution in refugee camps would be in the hands of women. We felt that to be an excellent example of women's empowerment, an approach that we believe deserves to be followed up elsewhere, both in the Sahel and beyond.

In conclusion, women's empowerment and gender equality are closely connected to peace and stability in society. There is overwhelming evidence to that effect. The meaningful participation of women has the potential to transform societies and build peace. Let us all work towards that goal. The women and girls of the Sahel and elsewhere need our support and the commitment of the Council.

Ms. Pierce (United Kingdom): I thank you very much indeed, Madam President, for being with us again today. It is fantastic to have you here. I thank you for all the work Sweden has done on this important dossier, and particularly for keeping it at the forefront of our minds in the Security Council and for the way you have tried to ensure that these issues are properly integrated and that the Security Council and the United Nations more generally get out of the silos that we are all familiar with. I am obviously also hugely grateful to Ms. Diop and the Deputy Secretary-General for leading the mission, which in my view was an incredibly important event. Like other speakers, I think it would be an excellent thing if it were to be regular. As my Dutch colleague said, there are many areas of the world that would benefit from their insights and engagement. They cannot be everywhere, but I think they have made an very good start on this occasion.

I was particularly interested in the assessment of the level of women's participation in decision-making and in peace and development processes, and I was struck by the same comment about preferring not to be raped as my Dutch colleague. But I think even more important than that was the interest shown in producing more female candidates by the people whom the Deputy Secretary-General and Ms. Diop talked to. I think that if we had only one thing we could concentrate on in order to build that pipeline for the future and start changing behaviours through Governments, it would definitely be worth thinking further about.

I would like to say that we in the United Kingdom fully share your goal, Madam, of having full delivery of resolution 1325 (2000) by 2020. You can count on Britain to work with you here and at the United Nations Office in Geneva to realize that.

As other speakers have hinted, the question of women's economic empowerment, their enjoyment of human rights and their role within their families and communities is something that should be nurtured and curated. This is not just a moral issue but also an economic and a prosperity issue. The countries that make proper use of and develop all the talents of their people will thrive. I think the Kazakh Ambassador

set it out very well when he talked about the link between security and development. So we do everyone a favour by intensifying the link between women's participation in economic life and the foundation of peace and security. From our perspective, we would like to see even more effort dedicated to integrating a gender perspective in strategies, including those about countering violent extremism, and we would like to see more women's involvement in policy planning, right on the ground floor. I think that was one of the conclusions of the Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security in June.

We heard a lot yesterday in the open debate on children in armed conflict (see S/PV.8305) about the disproportionate stigmatizing of women returnees when they go back to their communities, and I think that is worth putting on the table again today. It would be very good to hear from the countries concerned about what can be done to address that particular issue.

Turning specifically to the Sahel, the United Kingdom is increasing its regional presence there. We opened a mission in Chad in March. As I understand it, Chad and the Niger, sadly, sit at the bottom of the gender-equality index and that is why we in the United Kingdom want to do more to help those colleagues develop women's empowerment. I think the efforts that the Security Council, the United Nations system, the African Union and the Group of Five for the Sahel themselves have undertaken so far to ensure that we can fine-tune adequate measures to empower women are a very good step forward. From our perspective, we concentrate a lot on providing reproductive-health services to displaced populations and refugees, and we are prioritizing access to voluntary family planning for future support. We spend a lot of our programme funds on climate and environment resilience in eastern Chad, and the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters programme commits to 50 per cent women beneficiaries and includes a component on gender-based violence. All those things are contributing, I hope, to what we are talking about today.

We also have a partnership with France, arising out of the Anglo-French summit in January, for working on gender within the Sahel Alliance, supporting greater mainstreaming on gender across the work of the Alliance. If there are other colleagues in the United Nations who would like to know more about that, or even contribute with us, we would be very happy to work with them on that.

You, Madam President, particularly mentioned education and girls' education, and that is also a subject that we spoke about yesterday under the heading of children in armed conflict. I would just like to highlight the fact that in the Sahel, millions of children and young people are out of school, thanks to the presence of terrorist groups and militias, the conflict between farmers and herders and the difficult economic situation that many families are experiencing. Of course, girls are particularly affected, sometimes because of very basic issues, such as a lack of hygiene facilities in schools to accommodate girls' particular needs. The Sahel region, as we heard, has one of the highest rates of child, early and forced marriage in the world. The barriers to girls enjoying a proper education are very severe, and the United Kingdom has therefore been concentrating on what we call the Girls Education Challenge, and is already working to support 1.5 million girls in achieving a quality education. We are also one of the largest donors to Education Cannot Wait, of which Chad is one of the four initial investment countries.

I just wanted to give a snapshot of some of the things we have been doing, and also to say how much we share your view, Madam President, that this is an absolutely critical part of being able to embed peace, security and stability in an important region.

Mr. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): First of all, we would like to welcome you, Madam, in presiding over this briefing of the Security Council, and to thank you for organizing it. We listened with interest to the briefers, Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and Ms. Bineta Diop, African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, on their recent visit to South Sudan, Chad and the Niger, with a focus on women's participation in peace, security and sustainable development processes.

More than 17 years after the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the role of women in preventing and resolving armed conflicts and in post-conflict reconstruction has been expanded. However, the state of affairs with regard to the protection of women during armed conflicts is unfortunately very different, including in this part of Africa, where the level of threats to security and stability is unprecedentedly high. We have already expressed our concern about the fact that the terrorist groups that are entrenched in the

Sahel are intensifying their criminal activity and trying to expand its geographic reach. Women continue to be the victims of violence, and the atrocities and excesses inflicted on them by terrorist groups are horrifying. In that regard, our hopes rest on the initiative of the countries of the Group of Five for the Sahel to create a Joint Force to fight terrorism and organized crime. It will be crucial to continue to coordinate the efforts to combat extremism in the Sahel-Saharan region. We believe that it is essential to work to effectively counter the spread of extremist ideology, find practical solutions to the social and economic problems of the countries of the region and strengthen their State institutions. The United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel has a key role to play in resolving these issues.

We firmly believe in the positive role of women's participation in various aspects of the resolution of armed conflicts and post-conflict restoration. In our view, women's direct involvement in the prevention of armed conflict and in post-conflict reconstruction is an important prerequisite for ending violence against them. The Security Council's annual debates on women and peace and security enable us to monitor the overall progress in improving the protection of women in situations of armed conflict and ensuring their full and effective participation in efforts to prevent and resolve such situations. However, when we are dealing with concrete situations, it is important to take their specifics into account.

We believe that it is national Governments that should play the primary role in protecting women at every stage of an armed conflict, while the measures taken by United Nations bodies and civil society should be aimed at supporting and supplementing the efforts of States. In particular, the Security Council can make the most effective use of its toolkit and resources in matters directly related to the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security. With regard to such important topics as ensuring gender equality and expanding women's rights and potential, the specialized United Nations entities and mechanisms continue their successful and systematic work, which Russia is ready to continue to assist in every way.

Mrs. Haley (United States of America): I would like to thank you, Madam President, and our briefers.

Throughout my years of public service, I have encouraged women to use the power of their voice. I have been inspired by my mother, who went to law school and was offered a judgeship in India but was unable to take the bench, owing to the challenges that women faced in these areas at the time. I am inspired by my daughter, who is inheriting a world in which the opportunities for women to use the power of their voices to advance justice, prosperity, peace and security have never been greater. Here at the United Nations, we have combined that passion for amplifying women's voices with the belief that human rights issues, including those related to the rights of women and girls, are a critical element in peace and security. When women's voices are silenced, whether through violence or a lack of political rights or education, entire communities suffer, and that suffering leads to conflict.

In the Sahel region, the Security Council has said many times that the only solution to widespread conflict is a comprehensive approach. And that means empowering women in both politics and the economy. The International Peace Institute has found that when women are involved in brokering and implementing peace agreements, the agreements are more likely to last. When women are involved in peacemaking, they enlarge the scope of agreements to include social priorities such as children and families. The United States supports increasing women's participation in peacekeeping activities. But understanding the connections between women's fundamental rights and international peace and security means understanding that empowering women reduces the need for peacekeepers in the first place. When women participate in all social, political and economic activities, local and national economies flourish. When the rights of women and children are protected, life gets better. Health, well-being and educational levels improve, and all of those things come together to protect and reinforce peace and security.

The United States is strongly committed to empowering women in developing communities from the ground up. We work to ensure that our assistance goes directly to the kinds of women I meet on my trips abroad — the mothers struggling to feed their families, educate their kids and create a future for their families and their communities, the women pushing through barriers in the quest for equal political representation, and the entrepreneurs, pioneers, goal-setters and other extraordinary women changing the face of society.

Across Africa, the United States is helping to build the capacity of the African Union and other regional organizations to support women's political participation. We are honoured to be working with

Special Envoy Diop on the Continental Results Framework for Monitoring and Reporting on the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa. In the Sahel, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is working to build stronger connections between the programmes it funds for food security, health, micro-enterprise and community development. Ivanka Trump is working to give more women in emerging markets access to financing and capital. As she reminds us, women are the world's safest borrowers, paying back microloans at 97 per cent. In addition, women business owners create a multiplier effect in communities. They are more likely to hire other women and reinvest in their families and communities. In the Niger, USAID is engaging women in community dialogues and local decision-making in order to prevent violent extremism in vulnerable communities. Traumatized, uneducated young boys are prime targets for radicalization, and nobody understands that better than their mothers. The thread that runs through all of these efforts is that when we bring together women with power and resources, we create deeper, more sustainable prosperity. And that stability and prosperity protect human rights and promote security.

I recently spent some time with a woman who understands better than most the consequences of a failure to protect the rights of women. Regional United Nations Women Ambassador for Africa Jaha Dukureh is an inspiration, because she speaks from personal experience. When she was a week old, she became a victim of female genital mutilation. When she was 15, she was forced into child marriage. But she managed to escape all of that. She beat almost impossible odds, got an education and became an advocate for the world's most vulnerable girls and women. Ambassador Dukureh has found the power of her voice. She should inspire all of us to follow her example and do more than pay lip service to women's rights, by seeking out girls and women and listening to their voices. Protecting their rights actually creates opportunities that benefit the cause of international peace and security.

Mr. Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea) (*spoke in Spanish*): Equatorial Guinea would first like to express its condemnation of the recent deplorable terrorist attacks on civil society and the defence and security forces of the Sahel and on the international forces in Mali, including the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and Operation Barkhane. Our prayers go out to the victims of these attacks and to their families and communities, to whom we offer our deepest condolences. We also wish a swift recovery for all those who were injured.

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea congratulates the Swedish presidency for its leadership and its choice of topics for debate this month. Yesterday, under the presidency of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Stefan Löfven, we held an open debate on the very important issue of children and armed conflict, which led to the unanimous adoption of resolution 2427 (2018) by the Security Council. Today, under the presidency of Her Excellency the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Margot Wallström, we are participating in a meeting on an equally important topic, women and peace and security in the Sahel and the Lake Chad basin region. We are very grateful for the briefings we have heard from the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed, and from the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, Ms. Bineta Diop, who provided us with a very comprehensive and enlightening overview of this issue.

The Boko Haram insurgency continues to be active in its ninth year and is currently affecting the entire Diffa region, in the Niger, and the Lake Chad region. The people of these regions continue to suffer the devastating impact of terrorist attacks, which have driven millions from their homes and left them dependent on humanitarian aid. More than 2 million people in the region remain displaced today. Some live in overcrowded facilities, without access to basic services such as shelter, water and food, and others have settled in hosting communities, in extreme precarity.

The effect of this crisis is being particularly felt by women and girls. Women and girls are used as suicide bombers; they are subject to forced marriage; and, if they are released or have escaped from the clutches of Boko Haram terrorists, they face stigmatization. A study carried out by the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point in 2017, together with Yale University, in the United States, found that of the 434 suicide attacks carried by Boko Haram between 2011 and 2017, 56 per cent were carried out by young women and girls, including two thirds of the suicide attacks in 2017 alone.

Given this worrisome situation, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea continues to condemn terrorism in the strongest possible terms and calls on the international community to support the Governments

of the region in making the necessary investments and strengthening the mechanisms required in order to promote reconciliation, guarantee accountability and intensify the combat against terrorism. Also required will be initiatives aimed at preventing violent extremism that include the human rights and gender dimensions.

Concerning the Sahel region, where terrorist attacks are also having a very harmful impact on women and girls, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea would like to congratulate the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, which organized a high-level conference on women, violence and terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel, in partnership with the Economic Community of West African States, the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel), the Mano River Union, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, UN-Women and the Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel.

We trust that the outcomes of that high-level conference will contribute to boosting the level of participation of women in all social, political and economic initiatives aimed at fighting and preventing violent extremism and fighting terrorism. With respect to the efforts made to address the situation, Equatorial Guinea also hails the recent recruitment of a gender adviser to the G-5 Sahel joint force.

We also welcome the joint efforts made by the African Union and the United Nations, as exemplified by the recent high-level visit to South Sudan, the Niger and Chad, in which the briefers we have heard from today participated, accompanied by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women; Ms. Bience Philomena Gawanas, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Africa; and Ms. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund. We would call for more visits of this kind owing to their importance and impact they could have on the ground.

We also welcome the recent efforts made by the United Nations and the European Union to better implement the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, including the recent drafting of a support plan for the Strategy, intended to promote investments in the region. We very much hope that these efforts will contribute not just to empowering women and young people, but will also have a positive impact on cross-border cooperation, conflict prevention, sustainable peace, inclusive economic growth, climate action and renewable energy.

We congratulate the Deputy Secretary-General and urge her to continue in the same enthusiastic vein in which she has been leading the efforts made in the context of the United Nations Strategy.

Finally, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea would like to underscore the positive work being done by the African Union and the Lake Chad Basin Commission in support of counterterrorism operations and of stability in the region. We reiterate our resolute support to the Governments affected as they tackle the insurgency, congratulate them on the progress they have made and encourage them to continue and intensify these efforts until stability has been achieved in the region.

Mr. Yao Shaojun (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Madam President, China welcomes the fact that you have travelled to New York to preside over our meeting. China thanks Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and Ms. Bineta Diop, African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, for their briefings.

China welcomes the joint visit by the United Nations, the African Union and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Ms. Margot Wallström, to the two countries in the Sahel region, namely, Chad and the Niger. The Sahel region faces multiple challenges in the political, security, development and other fields. The continued spread of terrorism, the growing severity of cross-border organized crime, poverty and underdevelopment, as well as the grave humanitarian situation, have had a negative impact on the peace and security of the region.

Deputy Secretary-General Mohammed has taken charge of activities related to the Integrated Strategy for the Sahel and has led a mission to the relevant countries of the region. This has demonstrated the United Nations emphasis on and commitment to peace and development in the region.

I would like to make the following points on peace and security in the Sahel region.

First, it is important to resolve hotspot regional issues through political means. The international community should, on the basis of respecting the sovereignty of the countries concerned, actively support the peace and reconciliation process of the countries of the region so as to alleviate and ultimately settle hotspot issues. China supports the relevant parties in Mali in accelerating the implementation of the Mali Peace and Reconciliation

Agreement and in the smooth holding of general elections. We should help the countries concerned with their domestic reconciliation on an as-needed basis and help the women of the region expand their participation in political processes and peacebuilding. The relevant political solutions should draw upon the opinions of women and the general public, while taking into account their interests and concerns. At the same time, attention should be given to the spillover effect of such external issues as the Libya crisis and to preventing outside factors from affecting the region.

Secondly, regional counter-terrorism cooperation should be strengthened. Terrorist attacks on civilians, armed forces and United Nations peacekeeping operations have occurred frequently in the Sahel region, resulting in significant casualties. The international community should support countries of the region in independently dealing with the threat of terrorism and help them strengthen security capacity-building and counter-terror cooperation. The United Nations and the international community, on the basis of respecting the sovereignty and will of the countries concerned, should provide targeted technology, training, equipment, logistics and financial support to countries of the region.

Thirdly, the relevant agencies of the United Nations system should actively implement the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel and generate synergies. The Strategy has been in place for five years. The United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, together with its Special Representative, Mr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, has done a great deal of work to implement the Strategy. China welcomes the launch of the United Nations Support Plan for implementing the strategy and hopes that the United Nations will be able to better coordinate with the countries of the Sahel region concerned whenimplementing plans and provide targeted assistance to these countries.

Fourthly, it is important to cooperate with regional and subregional mechanisms. China appreciates the positive role of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel), the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and relevant African countries and organizations in settling Sahel issues. The international community should strengthen communication and coordination with relevant regional countries and mechanisms so that country-specific and regional strategies and the Integrated Strategy of the Sahel can be organically aligned.

The G-5 Sahel Joint Force is an important initiative undertaken by the countries of the region in responding to security challenges. Resolutions 2359 (2017) and 2391 (2017), adopted unanimously by the Council, welcomed the deployment of the G-5 Sahel Joint Force and mandated that the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) to provide support to the Joint Force. The international community should fully respect the leadership of Africa and allow it to independently solve African issues. We should support regional countries and organizations in their efforts to safeguard the peace and security of the Sahel region, and in particular provide substantive assistance to the G-5 Sahel Joint Force so as to meet its funding needs.

Fifthly, assistance should be provided to regional countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and positive conditions should be created to achieve peace and stability in the region. There will be no sustainable peace without sustainable development. Regional countries should therefore be given sufficient capacity to reduce poverty for their people, increase employment, better protect women and children, combat human trafficking and other cross-border organized crimes, boost the level of economic and social development and address the root causes of conflict.

China supports the efforts of African countries and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining peace and security in Africa. We have been supporting counter-terrorism projects through the China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund and have been helping African countries build their capacity to maintain peace. China is also an important troop-contributor to MINUSMA. China is willing to continue working with Council members and the international community and contribute to achieving peace and stability and common development in the Sahel region.

Ms. Guadey (Ethiopia) I would like to start by joining others in commending Sweden for organizing today's briefing. We also appreciate Sweden's leadership on the women and peace and security agenda in its capacity as Chair of the Council's informal expert group, and we are very pleased to see you, Madam Minister, presiding over this important meeting. I want to thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, Ms. Bineta Diop, for their briefings on the

joint African Union-United Nations high-level mission to South Sudan, Chad and the Niger.

Since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000,) on women and peace and security, positive developments have been noted over the years in advancing this very major and meaningful agenda, particularly in ensuring the participation and representation of women in political processes. That is particularly true in the context of Africa, where a number of countries on the continent have taken concrete steps to develop their own national action plans. In spite of all that, however, women and girls continue to bear the brunt of the devastating and dehumanizing impact of conflicts in Africa and the situation in the Sahel region, particularly in the three countries recently visited by the high-level mission, which share more or less similar experiences.

Women continue to be victims of sexual violence and other forms of abuse and are underrepresented in peace processes. As indicated in the concept note for today's briefing, the peace and security situation in the Sahel region continues to be exacerbated by climate change, induced conflicts and displacements. It is in that context that we commend the very welcome leadership by the Deputy Secretary-General in efforts aimed at finding a comprehensive solution to these issues.

As a follow-up to the recent joint high-level mission to the three countries, addressing the root causes of conflict in the Sahel region should continue to be of the utmost importance in addressing the challenges of protecting women. As such, fighting terrorism and violent extremism and comprehensively addressing the impacts of climate change in coordination with relevant actors are both critical. Such focus would enable us to chart a path to a strengthened framework for protecting women in conflict situations and to the enhanced and effective participation of women in conflict prevention, mediation and post-conflict reconstruction at all levels. In that regard, we welcome the new United Nations Support Plan for the Sahel announced in Nouakchott, which we hope will contribute to the realization of this objective. The momentum generated by the Nouakchott process, the creation and authorization of the deployment of the Group of Five for the Sahel Joint Force and the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel should certainly be sustained to achieve tangible progress, including in improving the lives of the most vulnerable sectors of society, particularly women and children.

Cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations, as demonstrated by the joint mission, would enable us to integrate a regional approach to the broader discussion on women and peace and security, which also provides a very good basis for cooperation between the two organizations in facilitating greater implementation and enhanced progress on the agenda in Africa. Such collaboration could focus, inter alia, on ensuring the active participation of women and women's groups in peace processes, conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding activities, as well as in the promotion and protection of the human rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

The possibility of undertaking similar joint missions to other parts of Africa affected by conflict and which are on the Council's agenda could be further explored. Mechanisms to utilize the good offices of the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the Women, Peace and Security could also be explored with the aim of advancing the agenda at the African level.

The African Union Peace and Security Council recently decided to adopt a Continental Results Framework for Monitoring and Reporting on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa. We believe that that Continental Results Framework could be one of the areas for further cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union aimed at further advancing the women and peace and security agenda in Africa.

Let me conclude by emphasizing the need to continue building partnerships with various stakeholders, including regional and subregional organizations, concerned States, developmental agencies, civil society organizations, women experts and groups and peace and security partners within the women and peace and security agenda. Ethiopia remains firmly committed to supporting such efforts and to working with all of those present in advancing the cause of women.

Mrs. Cordova Soría (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank the Swedish presidency for organizing this timely meeting on peace and security in Africa with a focus on the women and peace and security agenda. We also thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, and the African Union Special Envoy, Bineta Diop, for their briefings and their commitment drawing attention to this issue.

Bolivia reiterates the vital importance of promoting United Nations cooperation with regional and subregional organizations for the implementation and follow-up of the agenda on women and peace and security. In that understanding, we commend the high-level mission led by the Deputy Secretary-General, together with the African Union, to the Sahel region, the Lake Chad basin and South Sudan. We encourage the continuation of such practices, as they enhance the importance of women's participation in peace, security and development processes and in the fight against sexual violence in conflict.

Since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), 18 years ago, the Security Council has recognized the fundamental link between respect for gender equality and international peace and security. Since then, the United Nations has led great efforts and made significant progress in implementing Security Council resolutions to effectively integrate the gender perspective into peace processes and to ensure the participation of women in them. However, despite those efforts, the implementation of the agenda on women and peace and security continues to face challenges that require the joint work of States, regional organizations, United Nations agencies and the international community as a whole.

With regard to the Sahel, the consequences of interventionism and regime-change policies in Libya in 2011 had the direct effect of destabilizing the region, causing deplorable results still present today, such as the growing instability and insecurity due to the presence of terrorist groups and violent armed groups and transnational crime that affects the entire population, but especially women and girls, who are victims of sexual violence. We must remember that terrorist groups use sexual violence not only as a weapon of war but also as a source of funding and a means of recruitment.

We recognize the increase in the participation of women in the security sector and national counter-terrorism bodies. However, the consolidation of a comprehensive and gender-sensitive approach involving each and every one of the stakeholders is still a long way off. We consider it vital to promote the implementation of the United Nations Support Plan for the Sahel 2018-2022 and the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel and their priorities, which include gender equality and the empowerment of women to improve security, governance and resilience in the Sahel.

Moreover, in the Lake Chad basin, the practices of Boko Haram and Da'esh, such as kidnappings, forced marriages, rape, prostitution and the use of girls as human bombs, cannot continue and must not go unpunished. As resolution 2349 (2017) indicates, a holistic approach is needed to combat those terrorist groups. We welcome the efforts of the Joint Multinational Task Force in the fight against Boko Haram, and especially the efforts of the countries in the region in creating national action plans on women and peace and security. It is necessary to support that type of initiative, encourage cooperation among the countries that make up the special force and avoid interference in internal affairs that could destabilize the region.

We must also express our concern about reports of the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war by armed forces or groups in South Sudan. We believe that to make the needs of women and girls visible, their participation in the peace process is vital. The role of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) as mediator during the Revitalization Forum helps to ensure an inclusive process that enables women's participation through civil society organizations. We commend IGAD's efforts and call on the Council to continue to support the ongoing dialogue process.

In the same vein, we must intensify our efforts to ensure that women have a relevant place in the prevention, negotiation, mediation and peacebuilding processes. The creation of societies that promote gender equity makes peace processes inclusive and leads to sustainable peace. As long as women are not primary actors in the decision-making processes of conflict resolution, we will not achieve real peace.

We must fight impunity. Sexual violence in conflict is a war crime, and we must use the mechanisms available to us to bring the perpetrators to justice. We must support national authorities in the fight against sexual violence, in developing capacities for the prosecution of perpetrators and in ensuring access to basic services such as health and education. We must foster economic empowerment, which is necessary in post-conflict reconstruction. Promoting women's economic independence would make it possible to eliminate existing inequalities and would make sustainable development possible.

Finally, it is clear that the Organization has an important system in place to meet the global goals for gender equality and for the implementation of the agenda

on women and peace and security. We must continue to promote the resolutions adopted by the Council on this subject with the cooperation of the offices at our disposal. In that understanding, we commend the work of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security and, of course, UN-Women, which do a great job in promoting the role of women in the quest for peace.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to thank you, Madam President, for organizing this public meeting of the Security Council on the issue of women and peace and security in the Sahel, which is a true priority for us. Your presence, Madam Minister, attests to that. It is both a privilege and a pleasure to see you here among us once again to preside over this important meeting. I would also like to warmly thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed, and the African Union Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, Ms. Bineta Diop, for their enlightening briefings. The presence of the Deputy Secretary-General, following an important mission, shows the special importance of today's meeting.

In view of the commitment of the French and German authorities to promoting peace, security and development in the Sahel and to strengthening the women and peace and security agenda, I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of France and Germany. I would like to welcome my colleague and friend Christoph Heusgen, who is with us here today.

We welcome the recent joint visit by the Deputy Secretary-General and the Special Envoy of the African Union with which you, Madam President, are associated. That visit is a concrete example of the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda, which enables us today to address the situation of women in the Sahel region in a timely manner. We also welcome the presence in the delegation of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Pramila Patten, and several United Nations representatives for gender equality. In that context, we wish to convey three main messages.

Our first message is based on our belief that only action that combines politics, security, development and women's rights can promote lasting stabilization in the Sahel. That is the shared compass that guides the efforts of France and Germany, which are firmly committed to peace and security in the Sahel.

France is first of all politically active through the role it plays in international mediation in support of the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. France also plays a role in security through the deployment of Operation Barkhane and the support given to the Joint Force of the Group of Five (G-5) for the Sahel, which includes the recent appointment of a gender expert in the G-5 Sahel secretariat in Nouakchott. That appointment will be decisive in strengthening the protection of women by the G-5 Sahel Joint Force. Germany is also firmly committed to Mali and the Sahel, namely, through its important contribution to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and its development and humanitarian assistance.

That commitment to peace and security in the Sahel is essential to effectively combating the violence to which women are too often exposed in the region. As noted by United Nations actors on the ground in Mali, women are increasingly targeted by groups committing terrorist acts and promoting violent extremism. In the Lake Chad basin region, particularly in Chad and the Niger, we also see that Boko Haram still poses a serious threat to people, especially women and girls. Finally, we strongly condemn the systematic use of sexual violence as a weapon of war in South Sudan, which is absolutely unacceptable. In that regard, we thank Special Representative Pramila Patten for all her efforts to improve the situation. The commitments made in the communiqués must be implemented and those efforts should make it possible to effectively combat impunity, including within the armed forces and police; to set up units trained to protect women; and to enable those who survive such abuses to bear witness in order to better counter the stigmatization of the victims of sexual violence.

Our second message concerns the fact that our shared mission is to act together to achieve sustainable development in the Sahel and among its most vulnerable populations, especially women, which of course includes the fight against climate change. The Alliance for the Sahel, which France and Germany launched nearly one year ago, on 13 July 2017, in partnership with the main donors and countries in the region, aims to promote faster, more coordinated and better targeted assistance for all disadvantaged groups, especially

women. The Alliance is part of the broader framework established by the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel to coordinate efforts for the development of the Sahel. I would like to take advantage of the presence of the Deputy Secretary-General to stress how much we support and appreciate her work to promote the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. That common framework must guide all our efforts aimed at generating coordinated and effective action that will produce tangible results for the Sahelian people, in particular women.

Our third message deals more specifically with women's participation in regional peace processes. While progress has been made in that regard, women's participation in peace processes remains insufficient. We must be clear-headed enough to acknowledge that and courageous enough to rectify the situation. In Mali, for example, we believe that a lasting settlement of the crisis depends on the involvement of all parts of Malian society, in particular women, who must be involved not only in Government, but also in Parliament and at the local level. That is why France and Germany stress the importance of the participation of Malian women's organizations in the implementation of the peace agreement. That request was also made by the Security Council in its resolution 2423 (2018), which was adopted at the end of June.

In conclusion, I recall that France and Germany call for the systematic and long-term promotion of the capacity of women, especially in Africa, to be involved in peace processes and, more broadly, political processes. Let me be clear — that objective is not just one element among others or talking points, but rather a fundamental priority that is hard-wired in our hard drive in order to achieve parity and effectiveness. For that reason, our two countries support the initiative undertaken by the African Union to establish an African Women Leaders Network, and we encourage all Member States to join that initiative by, for example, joining the Group of Friends of the African Women Leaders Network, of which Ghana and Germany are co-Chairs. In the same vein, we commend the commitment of the International Organization of the Francophonie and its efforts to support francophone women's initiatives.

Mr. Djédjé (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank you, Madam Minister, for your presence among us today and for presiding over this Council meeting in such a brilliant way. My delegation congratulates Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and Ms. Bineta Diop, Special Envoy of the African Union for Women, Peace and Security, for the quality of their briefings, which have enlightened us about women, peace and security issues in Africa, in particular in the Lake Chad basin and Sahel regions.

We welcome the tripartite United Nations-African Union-Sweden mission led by the Deputy Secretary-General to the Sudan, Chad and the Niger to assess the role of women in political decision-making and peace processes with a view to promoting their full participation in development efforts. That joint visit, which is in line with the visit organized one year ago to Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, illustrates the validity of the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security. Côte d'Ivoire remains convinced of the need to work collectively to strengthen that partnership, and welcomes the joint mission, the lessons of which will enable the Security Council and the United Nations to strengthen strategies and mechanisms to maximize the benefits of women's participation in peace, security and sustainable development processes.

Since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), significant progress has been made in strengthening the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution. However, we must recognize that many obstacles continue to hinder the full participation of women in peace and post-crisis processes, especially in Africa. Indeed, new security challenges, such as the rise of terrorism, violent extremism, radicalization and climate change, are having a negative impact on women's ability to play their full role in peace and security. The complex and multidimensional crises facing the Sahel and Lake Chad basin regions are giving rise to the systematic use of sexual violence as a tactic of war, specifically by Boko Haram, and to criminal and terrorist activities in those regions. We deeply regret the fact that terrorist groups also use women as suicide bombers and human shields.

In response to that alarming situation, the Security Council adopted resolution 2349 (2017), which integrates the three dimensions of security and humanitarian and long-term development, thereby addressing the root causes of the crisis, which are poverty, underdevelopment, inequality and environmental degradation. Our Council also intends to contribute to the fight against the depletion of natural resources, the lack of employment and income, as well as issues of poor governance. My delegation also

welcomes the launch on 30 June by the United Nations of a support plan, entitled "Sahel: Land of opportunities", to promote sustainable peace and inclusive growth in the Sahel region, as well as to empower women and young people.

The stabilization of the countries of the region certainly requires the human, technical and financial support of the international community, but it also requires the full involvement of the populations concerned, in particular women, who should no longer be considered victims, but as full participants in the peace-building or post-conflict recovery processes. In that regard, it is worth recalling the relevance of resolution 1325 (2000) which, while underscoring the need for special measures to protect women against sexual and gender-based violence, highlights the importance of their participation at all stages of the peace-building process.

Like the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want identifies gender equality and the empowerment of women as priority objectives. The goals of the joint mission are therefore strengthened and call for, inter alia, a more inclusive approach to the role of women in peace processes. As stated in the framework document, the joint mission provides an opportunity to assess the progress and opportunities resulting from the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, which is based on the empowerment of women and youth, cross-border cooperation, conflict prevention and peacekeeping, inclusive economic growth, climate action and renewable energy. My country takes this opportunity to commend the leadership and work of the Deputy Secretary-General and supports her efforts to conduct a delicate mission in a context of instability and insecurity in the Sahel.

At the subregional level, the women and peace and security agenda receives special attention from the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), which works closely with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in particular on promoting the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions. In that regard, we welcome the high-level conference on the theme "Women, violence and terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel: Building a regional and international response", which was held in Dakar on 10 and 11 April. The conference was organized by UNOWAS, in partnership with ECOWAS, the Group of Five for the Sahel, the Mano River Union and relevant United Nations agencies. It provided an opportunity for participants to recall the importance of building the resilience of communities, and in particular of women, against the spread of ideologies and networks that promote violent extremism and terrorism.

Coordinating efforts between the United Nations and the African Union, through the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, as well as the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, is crucial in addressing the challenges of the Sahel and Lake Chad basin region. In that regard, it is important for the countries of the region and the international community to ensure the protection of women, who are most often the primary victims of conflicts. They must therefore ensure that women participate in all peacebuilding efforts, given that it is now unanimously recognized that women's participation in peace processes ensures the sustainability and inclusiveness of those processes.

My country takes this opportunity to welcome the establishment in June 2017 of the African Women Leaders Network. The Network's call for action seeks to ensure that women help stabilize the continent with a view to achieving Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. To that end, it should be recalled that Côte d'Ivoire, which has always made the role and future of women a priority, was the second country in Africa to launch on 26 January, through its Ministry of Women, Child Protection and Solidarity, the African Women Leaders Network in Cote d'Ivoire.

The role of women in peace processes must be encouraged and supported, in particular when women are from crisis-affected or developing countries. To support countries, the international community must continue to ensure that women are increasingly involved in conflict prevention. It must also support women's leadership in the peace, security and development nexus.

Mr. Alotaibi (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, we would like to commend you, Madam President, for participating in today's important meeting. We also welcome Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and the African Union Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, Ms. Bineta Diop, and thank them for their very valuable briefings.

We have heard briefings today on the joint visit conducted by the United Nations and the African Union to the Sahel, in particular the south of the

region — Chad and the Niger – in which you, Madam President, participated. We welcome this initiative.

Undoubtedly, the Sahel region faces various challenges, which pose a threat to peace and security, including environmental issues that lead to tensions and food insecurity, in addition to economic problems, such as unemployment and other terrorism-related challenges. Such challenges all have an adverse impact on the people in that region. However, women and girls are particularly vulnerable to them.

We commend the efforts of the United Nations to promote the role of women in achieving peace and security in the Sahel, which is one of the priorities of the Secretary-General as he seeks to achieve gender parity at the various United Nations bodies. We welcome the fact that women account for 22 per cent of the contingent of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. The participation of women should be further encouraged throughout peacekeeping missions at all levels — at the administrative level, as members of peacekeeping forces and at the leadership level.

The State of Kuwait condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks targeting the Sahel, which seek to undermine the stability and security of its peoples. We condemn in particular the terrorist activities of Boko Haram and the terrorist group Da'esh and its terrorist cells, which still exist even after its defeat. We support the efforts of the national Governments as they seek to withstand economic challenges, as stipulated in resolution 2349 (2017). Women and girls are the group most targeted by these terrorist operations because they are vulnerable to terrorist acts. African women and their children are often recruited by those terrorist and extremist groups. That is why we must promote the role of women in the fight against extremism and terrorism at all social levels, in particular at the regional and international levels.

We recall resolution 2242 (2015), which calls for the integration of the women and peace and security agenda while boosting the role of women to counter trafficking of light weapons. We reiterate our support for the countries of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel so that they can meet their national needs and address the common challenges faced in the Sahel region. We commend the participation of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel in supporting and developing national plans related to the issues of women and peace and security.

We recall that the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel has the empowerment of women as one of its six prioritie, and seeks to promote the role of women in achieving peace in the Sahel region. This can be done through the effective participation of women in the elections and other political processes, as well as the participation of women in peacekeeping operations. Strategies for fighting terrorism and violent extremism should be developed and implemented in line the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 1325 (2000), 1889 (2009) and 2242 (2015), along with relevant international, regional and national mechanisms and action plans.

We commend the efforts and endeavours to deal with issues of peace and security in the continent. African solutions should be related to African problems while maintaining their national ownership. We stress that the countries of the African continent must be conflict-free. The African Union and its competent organs, such as its Peace and Security Council, are models for other regional organizations responsible for maintaining peace and security in the States of the continent. They work for the development and prosperity of the societies in the member states of the African Union. We note the important role played by the African Union in steering certain peace operations that have become very important means to address the African conflicts and crises. We believe that there is an opportunity to strengthen the role of African women and their contribution to achieving sustainable peace in accordance with the regional action plan to implement resolution 1325 (2000).

It is appropriate here to mention resolution 2320 (2016), which underscored that partnership between the United Nations and the African Union Peace and Security Council should be based on bilateral consultations and joint strategies as needed. They must come together through a process of consultation to take joint decisions, with burden-sharing, joint analysis, transparency and accountability, in order to address the common security challenges in Africa.

We reiterate the importance of following up on the implementation of the Security Council resolutions and statements, particularly those linked to Africa, cooperation with the African Union and ways to ensure effective partnership.

It is evident that we have a good normative framework for involving women in achieving peace and security around the world, particularly in Africa and the Sahel. We call for intensive efforts to implement the relevant United Nations and African Union resolutions and mechanisms, and for the involvement of women and youth with all other segments of the society to achieve peace and security.

To conclude, the State of Kuwait wishes to reiterate its support for cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union as they seek jointly to achieve peace, security and stability in the African continent, and to promote peace and security throughout the world.

Mr. Radomski (Poland): I thank you, Madam President, for convening and presiding over this meeting today. We are deeply honoured by your presence among us.

Let me also join all other members of the Council in expressing my thanks to Deputy-Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, Ms. Bineta Diop, for their comprehensive briefings.

Poland is concerned by the extent to which women, men, girls and boys are impacted by the interrelated challenges in the Sahel region. Among the factors causing unrest and insurgencies in the region are increased tensions between farmers, food insecurity, unemployment and, of course, terrorism. These important issues have dramatic consequences, affecting women and girls with particular intensity and further complicating the regional security situation. Not only are women and girls the victims of terrorist attacks, but they are also being radicalized by terrorists. As we have heard, almost two-thirds of the suicide bombings by Boko Haram in 2017 were carried out by women and girls. Their desperation demonstrates how crucial it is to continue efforts to provide peace and security for women in the Sahel region. Like all other members of the Council, we are also appalled by the large scale of sexual violence in the region.

Reflecting on the key challenges to ensuring women's security and prospects to participate in sustainable development processes, I want to stress the need for the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel and its recent recalibration in order to ensure that it is responsive to the countries of the region and to mobilize greater resources for the region.

Resolution 2349 (2017), of March 2017, adopted following the Council's visit to the Lake Chad basin, is an important step in favour of women's peace and security in the region. Also, the call to action adopted at the high-level conference on women, violence and terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel, organized in April in Dakar, constitutes a step in right direction. We should be building on it further.

We also strongly believe that the Security Council and the United Nations as a whole have to promote women's positive role as agents for change in transitions from stabilization to long-term peacebuilding and development. With this in mind, over the past 18 years the Security Council, through its numerous resolutions, has created a solid normative framework, and good progress has been made in terms of implementation. What is needed now is more strategic and consistent implementation, followed by regular evaluations. Meetings like this one help to identify gaps between the framework and the situation on the ground.

We fully support initiatives to increase women's participation in democratic elections, decision-making and peace and development processes. We consider it essential to include gender considerations and the meaningful participation of women in early warning, mediation and conflict resolution efforts. Equally important is the mainstreaming of gender-specific language and the human rights of women in peace agreements. A greater role for women also needs to be ensured in post-conflict peacebuilding and economic recovery.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that further cooperation with the African Union and civil society is vital to increasing women's participation in peace, security and sustainable development processes in the region of Sahel and the Lake Chad basin.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Chad.

Mr. Moustapha (Chad) (*spoke in French*): His Excellency Ambassador Cherif Mahamat Zene, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chad should have liked to take part personally in this important high-level meeting but could not make the trip for reasons of timing. He has instructed me to deliver, on behalf of Chad, the following statement to the Council:

> "I would first like to congratulate Sweden on its accession to the presidency of the Council for

the month of July, and to thank it for organizing this important open debate on a very important topic. I warmly note the moving testimony offered by Ms. Wallström on the situation of women in the Lake Chad region.

"I also thank the Deputy Secretary-General for her briefing and for the riveting scenario she painted of the current challenges facing Chad. I further offer our thanks to Ms. Bineta Diop, African Union Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, and commend her commitment to helping Chad to implement its action plan arising from resolution 1325 (2000).

"Chad was one of the destinations of a joint United Nations-African Union-Sweden mission during the Swedish presidency of the Security Council, which was led by Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed. I should like to thank Ms. Mohammed, and through her the entire delegation and the United Nations, for having visited my country, including the city of Bol, the place in the Lake Chad region most afflicted by the barbaric terrorist attacks of Boko Haram. The field visit to the region, where refugees and internally displaced persons are concentrated, mostly women and children, allowed the mission to see at first hand the tragic consequences of the combined effects of terrorist attacks and climate change on vulnerable victims of those two phenomena.

"The situation in the region reflects the precariousness of people's living conditions, especially women, exposed to the adverse consequences of climate change on development and to the effects of the conflict afflicting the neighbourhood. The crises and conflicts in Chad's vicinity have also given rise to a wave of refugees and internally displaced persons, most of whom are women and children, whose numbers are estimated to exceed 700,000 people on Chad's territory. Those refugees and displaced persons share with their hosts the scarce resources on which they depend upon for their daily survival. At the same time, that situation puts pressure on the economic and environmental conditions in the region.

"Given that very complex and fragile context, courageous, determined and resilient women are daily heroically facing every obstacle to ensure the survival of their families. Given the role and the status of women in the process of development and crisis management, the Government of Chad has undertaken major reforms to address the situation of women so as to eliminate all the existing inequalities, discrimination and gender-based violence by 2030. The momentum generated by that Government reform dovetails with the goals set out by resolution 1325 (2000) and provides a sound foundation for the drafting under way of a plan of action for the resolution's full implementation. We look forward with anticipation to the contribution of UN-Women in that regard.

"Along the same lines, in addition to the specific measures undertaken with regard to women, which include providing microcredit to pron .e revenue-generating activity, thereby impro ng women's living standards, the Government is especially focusing on girls' education and adult literacy, without which an awareness of those reforms as well as their impact will be limited.

"Moreover, by way of a law adopted on 22 May, the Government of Chad has established phased parity between men and women when it comes to both elected and appointed office, with the immediate implementation of a 30 per cent quota for women. Likewise, a law adopted in 2015 prohibits girls being married before the age of 18, while a prison sentence of five to 10 years has been added to the criminal code for any individual who in any way forces a minor into marriage. Religious and civil society leaders made their contributions on that issue and were made aware of the importance of their participation in the fight against early marriage.

"The gender issue is a key facet and a priority for our Government in crafting and implementing development policies. The joint efforts to that end by national authorities and United Nations agencies play an important part. However, the road ahead is long and strewn with obstacles. The economic difficulties faced by Chad constrain the Government's ability to act, which has already been significantly limited by our military commitments in combating terrorism in the Lake Chad basin and Sahel. Given the mounting terrorist threat, Chad unfortunately finds itself forced to allocate its scarce resources to the security of the country and the subregion, to the detriment of economic and social development — for there can be no

peace or stability, and much less development, without security.

"We therefore launch an appeal to all our development partners, including the United Nations, for a shift in approach to partnership to transition from conventional humanitarian assistance to pooled efforts focused on sustainable development and resilience. In that regard, we commend the envisaged recalibration of the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy for the Sahel through the Sahel support plan. We underscore the need for robust involvement in the review process by the countries concerned, including taking their priorities into account. Following decades of humanitarian and development assistance, we regret that the impact of the results on the target populations fall woefully short of expectations. On its path towards social and economic development — a guarantor for peace, stability and security — is drawing the lessons of its past experience to henceforth measure the efforts of its development partners against concrete results that can be measured in terms of improvement in people's living conditions.

"In conclusion, I hope that the Deputy Secretary-General's vision — in which, again, you participated, Madam President — will open a new chapter in our partnership so that Chad can be supported in its efforts aimed at promoting sustainable development by improving the status of women in line with our national development plan, which was the subject of a round table organized last September in Paris. Honouring the pledges made by all our partners at that meeting — and we would like to thank them here — is essential for Chad and for the empowerment of women and girls."

The President: I now give the floor to Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed to respond to the comments made.

The Deputy Secretary-General: I thank speakers for their incredibly supportive response to the opportunity that we have had to share about our visit — but, more important, about the big issues.

The representative of Chad referred to the importance of the recalibrated United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, which cannot be underscored enough. While we await the African Union's review of the Strategy, one thing we have learned is the need to be better coordinated and coherent and really work towards a joined-up response in terms of investments.

We also thank the representative of France because, along with France, Germany and the European Union, the Alliance for the Sahel has also been incredibly important in bringing this all together. I think that many of the Heads of State in the region emphasize the need for coordination and living up to the commitments that were made five or six years ago, which have yet to realize any benefits. Had we done so, we probably would not be in the position that we are in now. The urgency of getting behind one strategy is really important. We are grateful that that is an outcome of the Security Council.

I must say that the real concern for me is that that urgency must come when countries are grappling with a fragile State and everything that comes with it — the expectations of people and trying to maintain a democracy, which is not just about elections. It is about the three arms of Government, which need to be supported equally, and that gap is closing as countries inch towards becoming failed States. That is a very real concern. We saw that on the ground. We saw the concerns of Heads of State there.

It was reflected in many instances. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden said, we should not have been going to fistula clinics and seeing them full of young girls. We should have been going to classrooms. Instead, here we were in Niamey, with three centres. We only saw one, and they had huge demands to expand. We were really looking to say that we should be looking at prevention, and prevention meant getting girls into school and investments in development. I suppose that the eight-point plan for the Republic of the Niger did have money for education, but there is just no fiscal space for it because funding is being taken up by the responsibilities to care for migrants coming back across the borders from Lybia, as well as by security issues related to handling Boko Haram.

I think the other concern is that Boko Haram is becoming much more organized. In its own way, it is providing an alternative to what Governments cannot provide for their peoples. There is an urgent need to stop that trend. It was not just the suicide bombers that we saw, who obviously in some cases were either hypnotized or forced into it, but there are many willing girls who are now following and communities that are sympathizing with many of these terrorist groups.

That, I think, is far more dangerous and we need to turn it back.

We also saw the challenge of the conflicts between farmers and herders across the region. Again, I would emphasize that population growth and other dynamics, such as urbanization, and the stress they put on food security are something we have not really looked at. We have gone to the symptoms and looked at them from the political, ethnic or religious point of view. It is much more than that, and I think that we need a better, joined-up response to how we articulate the Sustainable Development Goal on cities, for instance. This happens in context and has repercussions on insecurity.

I would say that we did see a really wonderful opportunity of getting behind a cross-border initiative of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to draft its plan, which really answered a number of the issues we had and took care of the context of climate and conflict. But it needs to be urgently supported. There are frameworks and vehicles, checks and balances that we can put in there with respect to the areas that we really worry about or the risks that we think we can mitigate through a better joined-up partnership of multilateral system. But it needs to happen now.

I think that reforms in the development system really do help in bringing about good coordination. We saw excellent coordination in the humanitarian and development nexus in Chad and in South Sudan, where of course the tensions probably helped us to come together. We also saw it in the Niger, when they got together with the ruling rural integrated programmes.

I would point to the African Union-United Nations framework for peace, security and development. The Secretary-General was there yesterday. They launched the action plan for development, which includes the Sahel Strategy. We believe that that represented a solid step forward. Again, we would plead for support for that and for the African Women Leaders Network. That is a strong group. They will manage to put together and launch the fund for women. It takes a different angle. This time they are looking at building the capacities of women fund managers, which means they are looking to leverage resources that are available in the private sector and elsewhere. It is not just a case of grants; it is a case of how we leverage more funding for that. The work continues.

The President: I give the floor to Ms. Diop to respond to the comments made.

Ms. Diop: I would like to thank the members of the Security Council for giving us this opportunity to brief them. My special thanks go to you, Madam President, and to the Deputy Secretary-General for your generosity in staying so long in the region and listening to African women. We are very happy that you could come back and report to the Security Council. I am very glad to see the entire Security Council fully support the agenda and our mission, and we hope that we will implement whatever is decided here.

I need to echo again the concern of the women of South Sudan. South Sudan needs to get back to where it was before when there was peace and security. Women are asking that we restore their dignity. They want to go back to the peace process. They want to be part of the governance mechanism to be put in place. They want to be part of the future elections and the process of fighting against impunity. We have heard them.

My Office has supported many countries in Africa. So far, we have 22 national action plans. I want to do more, with the support of everybody, to make sure that by 2020 almost half of the countries of Africa have a national action plan. But national action plans are not just the end of it. That is why my Office has also developed a continental results-based framework to measure progress in implementation. We need to go beyond resolutions and frameworks to measuring progress with indicators and targets. The African Union Chairperson will, through my Office, deliver an annual report that can be shared with the Security Council. I hope that, with this, we can measure the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda and the development of the continent of Africa.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of of speakers.

I would mention one more thing that we forgot to to tell the Security Council. The cooperation among the European Union, the African Union and the United Nations in a project like the Spotlight project in the Niger to prevent sexual violence against girls and women is, I think, a good example of how we have to continue to take this forward.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.8307

Security Council

Seventy-third year

Provisional

8307th meeting

Wednesday, 11 July 2018, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Wallström	(Sweden)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mrs. Cordova Soria
	China	Mr. Ma Zhaoxu
	Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Djedje
	Equatorial Guinea	Mr. Ndong Mba
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Ashikbayev
	Kuwait	Mr. Alotaibi
	Netherlands	Mr. Rhuggenaath
	Peru	Mr. Meza-Cuadra
	Poland	Mr. Lewicki
	Russian Federation	Mr. Polyanskiy
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mr. Cohen

Agenda

Maintenance of international peace and security

Understanding and addressing climate-related security risks

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Maintenance of international peace and security

Understanding and addressing climate-related security risks

The President: I would like to warmly welcome the Heads of States and Government, ministers and other representatives here in the Security Council Chamber. Their presence here today underscores the importance of the subject matter we will discuss. I am also delighted to welcome once again the Deputy Secretary-General, Her Excellency Ms. Amina Mohammed.

In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Iraq, Maldives, Nauru, the Sudan and Trinidad and Tobago to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Mr. Baron Divavesi Waqa, President of the Republic of Nauru. I also wish to welcome His Excellency Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister for Water Resources of the Republic of Iraq.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Hindou Ibrahim of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear briefings by the Deputy Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Janabi and Ms. Ibrahim.

I now give the floor to the Deputy Secretary-General, Her Excellency Ms. Amina Mohammed.

The Deputy Secretary-General: I would like to begin by commending the Security Council for focusing its attention on climate-related security risks.

I would like to address four key issues today: first, the nature of the challenges to our common security posed by climate risks; secondly, the impacts of climate change; thirdly, the actions being taken by the United Nations system to tackle them; and, lastly, what we need to ask of all of us to ensure that we continue to centrally integrate climate concerns in our security considerations.

It is clear that climate change is a real threat and is proceeding at a relentless pace. Earlier this year, the World Meteorological Organization confirmed that 2015, 2016 and 2017 were the warmest years on record. The level of carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere continues to rise. That build-up means that we are at increasing risk from heat waves, floods, droughts and wildfires, and we are now seeing all those things happening more frequently.

While the impact of climate change may be spread unevenly across various regions today, no country will be spared from its consequences in the long term. But we see disproportionate effects on socially vulnerable and marginalized groups. We must act together with a joint vision and a commitment to multilateral cooperation. That is our only chance at finding effective and sustainable solutions to this huge challenge.

The impacts of climate change go well beyond the strictly environmental. Climate change is inextricably linked to some of the most pressing security challenges of our time. It is no coincidence that the countries most vulnerable to climate change are often those most vulnerable to conflict and fragility. Fragile countries are in danger of becoming stuck in a cycle of conflict and climate disaster. Where resilience is eroded, communities may be displaced and exposed to exploitation. That said, the impact of climate change on security can take many different shapes, as the concept note for this debate continues to argue. They includes loss of livelihoods, food insecurity and risks to the natural resource base. Many of those manifestations become visible only over time.

The Lake Chad basin is grappling with many of those challenges. Having just returned from a joint visit to the region with the African Union and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Ms. Margot Wallström, I have seen the situation on the ground in all its complexity and urgency. The basin is experiencing a crisis brought on by a combination of political, socioeconomic, humanitarian and environmental factors. The drastic shrinking of Lake Chad by more than 90 per cent since the 1960s has led to environmental degradation, socioeconomic marginalization and insecurity affecting 40 million people. Exacerbated competition over scant resources and the vicious cycle of risk and vulnerability

have decreased the resilience of populations to cope with the humanitarian crisis.

I personally grew up in the Lake Chad basin, in Maiduguri. As a child, I would cross the lake on a hovercraft, thinking that I was going to the United Kingdom. Today, you can hardly take a canoe across it. The situation is real. There is no trade. There are only places for terrorists to hide.

Declining economic activity and agricultural loss have led to a lack of employment opportunities across the region. The resulting socioeconomic marginalization has exposed populations, in particular the young, to the risk of violent extremism and has provided a breeding ground for recruitment by groups such as Boko Haram. The Boko Haram insurgency in north-east Nigeria and the neighbouring countries of Cameroon, Chad and the Niger has left over 10 million people displaced and has resulted in the massive destruction of basic infrastructure, health-care and educational facilities, commercial properties, private homes and agricultural assets.

The multidimensional nature of the crisis underlines the complex relationship between climate change and conflict. Climate security-risk assessments and reporting from the local, national and regional levels should be considered as an early warning for conflict prevention. We must understand climate change as one issue in a web of factors that can lead to and exacerbate conflict. Within that web, climate change acts as a threat multiplier, applying additional stress on prevailing political, social and economic pressure points. As the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission said to me during our visit, "At the end of the day, what was the origin of this conflict?" For him, the disappearance of the Lake was a key factor. In Bol, the Lake has shrunk by more than 90 per cent in just a few decades. Action on climate change is urgent and is an integral part of building a culture of prevention and ensuring peace.

The United Nations system is tackling climate risks on several fronts. During the past 18 months, the Security Council has recognized the adverse effects of climate change on stability in several geographical areas — the Lake Chad basin, West Africa, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. The United Nations system takes seriously its responsibility to provide integrated analysis to the Security Council as it discusses those issues.

In that spirit, we are determined to fully mobilize the United Nations capacity to better understand and respond to climate-related security risks at all levels. We are increasing our climate-related security-risk assessments and management strategies. We are strengthening our capacity to understand the impact of climate change on security, to integrate our findings into assessment and planning processes and to better coordinate efforts between system entities.

For example, the Secretary General's forthcoming report on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel will report on recent developments involving the climate-security nexus in the region. The recalibrated United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel is similarly climate-oriented, focusing on building resilience and improving management of natural resources. By supporting climate-smart agriculture and resilient pastoralism at the regional level, the United Nations will continue to contribute to strengthening the resilience and capacities to adapt to the impact of climate change of rural women and their communities. The United Nations is also supporting ongoing successful efforts by the member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to implement their stabilization strategy and programme, which also includes the development programme for recharging Lake Chad.

At the international level, the United Nations can help to connect efforts and ensure that climate-related frameworks are linked up and complement one another. We will support efforts to set the global resilience agenda to achieve sustainable development.

What is our ask? We need to support programmes that place women and youth at the heart of our efforts. We know that the impact of climate change is felt disproportionately by women. I am happy to have Ms. Hindou Ibrahim here to give us a much clearer view of what that means on a daily basis. Desertification means women must travel farther to fetch water and food, forcing them to miss out on education and economic opportunities in the long term. Youth without jobs will take the alternative route, into terrorism. The United Nations Development Programme, for instance, is already addressing many of those challenges. This progress needs urgent investments in scale.

The reality today is a very different one. The challenge and danger of climate change are today very clear and present dangers that virtually every

country has accepted and realized. They call for dramatic actions.

As the Secretary-General has said, climate change is moving much faster than we are. We count on the Security Council to do its part to help humankind keep pace.

The President: I thank the Deputy Secretary-General

I now give the floor to His Excellency, Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister for Water Resources of Iraq.

Mr. Janabi (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): It is an honour to be here today, at the kind invitation of Her Excellency the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, to give a briefing on climate-related security risks. This is a vital issue and today's debate is a testimony to its importance. I commend Sweden for the initiative of convening this open dialogue.

I would like at the outset to convey to the Council the sincere greetings of the Government and people of Mesopotamia — my country, Iraq, which aspires to stability, progress and prosperity, and hopes that these deliberations will contribute to the promotion of peace and security worldwide. The Council's deliberation on climate-related security risks is an important step forward in terms of international responses and a precautionary measure to mitigate risks and to avoid potential conflicts at the national, regional and international levels. The United Nations system focuses on the pillars of peace, development and human rights, and we believe that climate change has a significant negative impact on those three pillars.

The rising temperature of Earth's surface, if not by itself a direct and concrete threat — and I do believe that it is — undoubtedly magnifies the threats of other familiar risks, increases their complexity and intensity in many regions of the world, including ours, and impedes the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in our countries. That is particularly true of Goals 1, 2, 6, 13 and 15. That in turn will lead to further impoverishment, displacement, food and water insecurity, and violations of human rights, especially those of women, children and other vulnerable groups, amid conditions of instability.

Declining rainfall and the unsustainable use of water resources exacerbate the problem of water scarcity, causing the depletion of life-sustaining land resources, displacement and migration. There is no doubt that the United Nations maintains frightening statistics on the number of displaced persons and migrants for social and environmental reasons. Although the number of those who have drowned in the high seas is unknown, the causes of their deadly migration attempts are known to everybody inside and outside this Chamber. Those reasons include poverty, wars, instability and the lack of decent means of living resulting from the spread of desertification, global warming and the loss of biological diversity. Those are the challenges to the conclusion of three important conventions: the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, in addition to other international and regional conventions adopted since the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

The first human civilizations arose in the valleys of major rivers on various continents. In our part of the world, that includes the Mesopotamian rivers — the Tigris and Euphrates, home of the great Sumerian civilization — and the great Nile river in Egypt. We are concerned that the great river basins of the Middle East in particular are being subjected to the greatest threat and stress ever, resulting primarily from climate change and then from competition for the use and control of shared water resources in the absence of effective bilateral or multilateral conventions or regional frameworks for the equitable and reasonable use of shared water. Such stress may result from indifference towards the application of the principles of international law and its tools to ensure the rights of all riparian countries.

That exacerbates the political, economic and social problems and intensifies the negative impact of climate change, which, according to our observations, led to the decline of about 25 per cent of rainfall or snow cover in the upper river basins of the Tigris and the Euphrates. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change expected that the reduction in rainfall and snowfall would be between 10 and 60 per cent in the Tigris and Euphrates basins. That, of course, translates into a similar decline in the flow of the two rivers through my country, Iraq, coupled with increased demand for shared water due, inter alia, to population growth and the needs of economic development, which leads to unfair competition for the downstream countries, including Iraq. In the uncertain political and security situation of the Middle East, the refusal to cooperate,

non-respect for existing uses and the inequity of access to water represent a real threat to peace and stability in the region.

The combined effect of climate change and the operational modes of large dams have led, for example, to a decline in the rate of inflow of the Euphrates river by 50 per cent over the past 20 years. They have changed the patterns and seasons of the natural water flow and led to the shrinking of the green cover and expanding desertification. Consequently, the average temperature has increased by at least 1.5°C in Baghdad and southern Iraq, which represents a loss of at least 15 per cent in land productivity, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and an increase in unused land as a result of water scarcity or agriculatural marginalization.

Our observations show that nearly 90 per cent of Iraq's historically fertile land is threatened by desertification to varying degrees, resulting from global warming and water scarcity. The same applies to the countries of the region. Egypt, and this year Iraq, have therefore been forced to limit the amount of cultivated land and prohibit the cultivation of certain agricultural crops that people historically used to grow, owing to water scarcity. This undermines deeply rooted social, economic and cultural traditions and causes food insecurity for millions of people.

Climate change and the depletion of water resources destroy the fertility of the soil and make it barren, forcing people to move to another location where their living conditions may be just as severe owing to their inability to adapt and to their vulnerability, with dwindling water resources and scattered and unpredictable rainfall due to climate change.

What is more threatening here is that the displacement of rural populations, who are usually the food producers, means a double loss: a decrease in the number of food producers, on the one hand, and an increase in the number of food-insecure people on the other. It is therefore only fair for the international community to intervene positively in order to enhance resilience and stability in the face of harsh changes in living conditions in fragile areas or areas most vulnerable to climate change. This will require supporting adaptation programmes, which is environmentally and economically less expensive than attempts to accommodate migrants elsewhere after they have abandoned their land because it is no longer fertile and cannot return to it.

This is in addition to the fact that proactive and preventive measures can avoid humanitarian tragedies, which most heavily impact women, children and other vulnerable social groups. In fact, many of the measures required may be legally binding on States parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification or the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as covered by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

If I had to cite an example, I would point to the grave deterioration in the environment of the Iraqi delta at the mouth of the Gulf, the famous waterway known as Shatt Al-Arab, which is the historical location of the legend of Sinbad and the Garden of Eden, according to certain holy books and religions. It is a striking example of the change in a freshwater ecology characterized by fertile soil and dense forests of palm trees, and its transformation into a mainly lifeless environment due to advancing seawater owing to less fresh water coming from the river streams of the Tigris, Euphrates, Karkhah and Karon. The same danger threatens the Nile delta and other rivers in the region, ultimately forcing millions of people below the poverty line to migrate.

I would refer also to an important site where the ancient Sumerian civilization was born. It is a unique and ancient water formation, at the confluence of the great rivers in Mesopotamia at the mouth of the Gulf, on the edge of the desert known as the Iraqi Mesopotamian marshlands, which historically covered an area of more than 15,000 square kilometres. There the ancient Sumerian lifestyles have continued without interruption to this very day, like the old civilizations in Egypt and the Indian peninsula, where great historic cities were founded such as Ur, Erido, Uruk and others.

This significant site was criminally and deliberately dried up by the infamous Iraqi dictator who was overthrown in 2003. Subsequent Governments undertook restoration programmes and successfully brought back to life large areas of the marshlands. The site, which was listed as a World Heritage Site in July 2016, is now gradually drying up because of climate change and a change in the waterways or because of water depletion.

The descendants of the Sumerians, who live in the marshlands and who breed cattle, have asked me to convey to the international community their call

for saving their water environment, lifestyle and human heritage. This can be achieved only when international conventions and parameters are respected by neighbouring countries, and when standards are set that are aimed at preserving biodiversity and traditional lifestyles.

We cannot ignore the destruction caused by the terrorist organization Da'esh in Iraq or the damage deliberately inflicted on civil and water installations. Terrorism is an international phenomenon, not a regional one. Regardless of the different interpretations as to the root causes of the phenomenon of terrorism in many regions, the fact is that instability and economic and social fragility contribute to the spread of extremism and acts of revenge. This requires coordinated interventions to address hotspots that threaten peace and stability. We believe that measures to adapt to climate change are part and parcel of addressing social, economic and political challenges and that SDG 13, on climate change, is of particular benefit to our region.

Lastly, I was asked to deliver a message from the Iraqi Government to the Council reaffirming the country's commitment to peace, security and development and to adopting a joint cooperation approach with neighbouring countries that is based on respect, mutual benefit, international law and the reasonable and equitable utilization of shared water resources. Given that climate change is a global phenomenon that knows no political borders, comprehensive regional approaches based on the provisions of international law as well as initiatives based on diplomacy among riparian States, such as water diplomacy and global security initiatives, along with environmentally smart programmes, could prevent tension and instability from arising and create an environment conducive to defeating terrorism, speeding up the rebuilding of various infrastructures, and enhancing mechanisms for adaptation to climate change and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Iraq commends the supporting role of the international community in defeating terrorism on its territory and calls for respect for its water rights and for protecting the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. We believe that this will help spread peace and security in the region.

The President: I thank Minister Janabi for his briefing. I now give the floor to Ms. Ibrahim.

Ms. Ibrahim: Anyone who believes in peace and security and sits in this Security Council Chamber has to consider climate change as a security risk. I know that many people here today read the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, but it is my duty to tell the Security Council that my community — nomadic pastoralists moving from one place to another in search of water and pastures for our survival — knows nothing at all about the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

My people do not know that there is such a thing as a Security Council where a group of people sits and thinks about peace around the world. My people are living climate change. Climate change has an impact on their daily lives and gives them insecurity. When they sleep at night, they dream that they will wake up the next day and be able to get food or water for their children. They also dream that if someone gets to the resources before they do they will have to fight for them. My people do not sit in offices all day and wait for their salaries to be paid at the end of the month so they can feed their families.

More than 80 per cent of the communities in my region of the Sahel depend on the environment — on agriculture, fishing and the raising of livestock — for their livelihoods. On a daily basis they have to go out and fight to feed their families. Practically speaking, because we are nomadic we have to follow the changing patterns of water and pasture. In the past decade, however, we have been forced to experience the impact a changing climate has had on all our resources.

Natural resources are indeed shrinking. Council members have of course already heard about what is happening to Lake Chad, but there are many other places where water is now disappearing forever. People have to fight to gain access to these shrinking natural resources, resulting in local conflicts that are spreading every day. These local conflicts grow into national conflicts and then become regional conflicts. Even worse, these places where these people live become a fertile place for terror. All around these places, terrorist groups are growing. Why are they growing? Perhaps it is because of their ideologies, but it may also be because the opportunity to take advantage of people who are becoming poorer and poorer every day is also growing.

In my region, men and women have different responsibilities. Men are responsible for feeding their families. If a man cannot do that, it is a great humiliation. He will lose his dignity. To preserve that dignity, he has only two choices — he can join a

terrorist group because, as a human being, he needs to feed his family, or leave the place where he is. If he does that, he joins the internal migration that creates conflict in his region. There is also external migration, which also occurs because people have no other choice. We have all heard the sad story about how migrants are being treated in Libya in this, the twenty-first century. But people continue to go because they have no choice. Either they go there and jump into the sea to save their human dignity or they stay home to fight and die.

For me, as one who comes from these communities, I see babies and young people growing up in this area and think about them in the next decade or the next 20 years. What will their futures be like? Are they also going to jump in the sea? Are they also going to join terrorist groups? Or are they just going to kill each other because, in order to survive, they have to eat?

Council members have to go beyond the Paris Agreement and the United Nations agency fighting climate change. The fight has to be a global one. It has to be a global fight because globalization can be a curse or an opportunity. In my community, where a radio is hard to come by, it is easy to find a bottle of Coca Cola. This makes us wonder why we get useless things, instead of a great solution, access to energy, help in getting to school or to health services, or support for finding other alternatives in life, leading to a peace and a prosperous future for all.

Most development aid goes to cities, but because the problems are all in the rural areas, the solution must also come from there. My people are always fighting for peace — to combat climate change — but we cannot do that alone, because resources are not always available. We need both tools and capacity. Members of the Council need to come to our countries to see how we are living. Our way of life needs to be observed. Solutions need to be found. These solutions could be very inexpensive because they could be derived from the traditional knowledge we already have.

I would like to conclude by saying that my people do not have a choice. We do not have a choice, but members of the Security Council do have a choice. They choose to sit in the Council. They choose to fight for peace and security around the world. I therefore urge them consider climate change to be a security risk. Council members must give my people — men, women, young people — hope. In fact, the Security Council should give my people something greater than hope because we deserve something more than mere survival: we deserve a life like everyone else's.

The President: I thank Ms. Ibrahim for her briefing.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden.

I am honoured to preside over today's debate on climate-related security risks. I am a bit taken aback by the previous speaker. Nevertheless, I thank all the briefers for their statements this morning. Their testimonies all say one thing, despite coming from different perspectives: the security risks associated with climate change are real. Minister Janabi spoke of how Iraq is grappling with the harsh weather conditions and intense droughts that will affect his country's fragile security. Ms. Hindou Ibrahim just vividly described the challenges facing pastoralists in the Lake Chad Basin, as ecosystems — and old power structures — shift. Let me also thank the speakers representing groups of affected countries who will share their experiences with us. Also, I extend special thanks to His Excellency President Baron Waqa of Nauru for being here today.

Last week, we met men and women who are dealing at first hand with the everyday consequences that a changing climate is having on peace and security. They are migrants and refugees displaced as a result of drought or floods. They are the breadwinners no longer able to feed their families because, much like Lake Chad itself, their traditional fishing or farming livelihoods have evaporated, giving rise to tensions. They are women leaders working in their communities to prevent youth from becoming victims of radicalization by groups that prey on the vulnerable. They do not have the choice of ignoring those realities, and neither do we.

The link between climate and security continues to be a priority for Sweden in the SecurityCouncil. It is time for the Council to catch up with the changing reality on the ground. It has been seven years since we last debated climate and security (see S/PV.6587). It is past time for us to deepen our understanding of how climate change interacts with drivers of conflict.

I will be very practical, as I like to be. I believe there are four areas that need to be addressed.

First, in order to properly address threats to peace and security and to guarantee the Council's future efficiency, we need a better understanding of climate-related security risks. We have made an important start over the last 18 months by recognizing

the adverse effects of climate change on stability in the Lake Chad Basin, West Africa and the Sahel.

Secondly, we need improved tools, analysis and reporting from the field to better address climate-related security challenges. The presidential statement on climate and security adopted seven years ago (S/PRST/2011/15) asked for better reporting. However, that knowledge and information gap still exists, and it urgently needs to be filled.

To be able to make informed decisions on how best to respond to the conflicts on our agenda, we must have all the information on what is driving them. That includes how a changing climate is contributing to those conflicts. Climate-risk assessments should be part and parcel of relevant reporting to the Security Council. How climate risks interact with political, social and economic factors, as well as gender dimensions, should be taken into account. It is clear that climate risk has the potential to play an ever-increasing role in driving future conflicts. We need to invest in early warning in order to better understand where those potential vulnerabilities lie. To that end, we would welcome regular, forward-looking regional and global reporting from the Secretariat on climate-related security risks.

Thirdly, to deliver on all of that, an institutional home for those issues within the United Nations system is needed — we hope that Ms. Amina Mohammed might be the mother of that home — maybe under the leadership of a special representative, with responsibility for bringing together information from all relevant United Nations agencies. Reporting and analysis should also draw on available research from outside the United Nations system, perhaps through a network of universities and other research institutes that can provide us with that. I am pleased to announce the launch of a Stockholm-based knowledge hub for climate security later this summer. That hub will increase the collective understanding of those issues and will be available to the United Nations and other actors by providing evidence-based analysis.

An enhanced understanding of climate-related security risks and how to address them in the Security Council should not, and will not, duplicate the responsibilities of the General Assembly or other United Nations bodies. Instead, it will ensure that all United Nations bodies deliver on their respective mandates to the best of their ability and that the system collectively delivers more than the sum of its parts.

Fourthly and lastly, in framing our response, we need to look to the countries on the front line and learn from their experiences and from good practices. For example, Nepal and the Sudan, with United Nations support, are taking steps to address climate-related risks through pilot projects that map such risks, with the aim of identifying resilience-building interventions and programming.

The Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum was established this year to enhance joint efforts towards building peace and fostering sustainable development across the region. It has confirmed the importance of applying a holistic approach to complex and interlinked security challenges, including climate change.

Led by the African Union Commission, the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative is a truly integrated project for climate, security and peace. It aims to halt desertification, boost food security and build resilience to climate change, while creating jobs. That is conflict prevention and sustaining peace in practice. We must capitalize on that knowledge on the ground and integrate it into our efforts to end conflict and sustain peace.

Regional organizations such as the African Union and the European Union, as well as the Pacific small island developing States, the Alliance of Small Island States and the Caribbean Community, are already providing momentum to the international response to climate-related security risks. It is now imperative that the United Nations catches up and takes the lead in facilitating and coordinating global efforts, working with regional partners and other stakeholders.

The Secretary-General's climate summit in September 2019 represents a pivotal moment to make progress on the issue. The concrete steps I have mentioned today should work towards guaranteeing that climate-related security risks are on the agenda at that summit.

The threat that a changing climate presents to our societies and to international peace and security cannot be underestimated. It has already created a new reality for the communities that we met in the Sahel. To realistically and meaningfully respond to their needs, address the conflicts of today, meet the call of Hindou Ibrahim and others and prevent the conflicts of tomorrow, we can no longer afford to ignore that threat.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I call on the Prime Minister of Curaçao, Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Mr. Rhuggenaath (Netherlands): I would like to thank Minister Wallström of Sweden for organizing today's debate on climate-related security risks. I also wholeheartedly thank Deputy Secretary-General Mohammed, Minister Janabi and Ms. Ibrahim for their excellent and valuable testimonies and briefings. In addition, it is great to see fellow small island developing States at this table.

I am particularly pleased to be here today, because we are discussing a topic that directly affects my country. As the Prime Minister of Curaçao, a small island developing State in the Caribbean, I can attest to the fact that the link between climate change and security is clear and undeniable to our people and to those of other countries of the Kingdom, particularly Aruba and Sint Maarten. Increased climate variability threatens social stability. It can ultimately lead to displacement and regional tensions. Where climate change threatens international stability and security, the Council has a responsibility to act.

What if we had known 15 years ago that in 2018, millions of people in the Lake Chad region would need relief assistance to survive, with water stress as one of the threat multipliers? What if we had known that millions of people from Somalia would still be displaced against the backdrop of severe droughts? What if we had known that climate change would constitute an existential threat to small island development States like my own?

Those questions may seem irrelevant, since we cannot change the course of history. But what we can change is how we apply the lessons we have learned so far. By responding in a timely manner to warning signs, also when it comes to climate-related security risks, we can adequately address root causes, prevent instability and conflict and sustain peace in the future.

Recently, the Council has taken significant steps towards recognizing climate-related security risks, as you, Madam President, just mentioned. The first was the adoption of resolution 2349 (2017), on the Lake Chad basin, followed by presidential statement S/PRST/2018/3 on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel and resolution 2408 (2018) on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia. There was also the request that the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq assist the Government of Iraq in facilitating regional dialogue and cooperation on water and most recently the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. I also recall the briefing on the Lake Chad basin under our Kingdom's presidency (see S/PV.8212) in which the majority of us agreed that climate change is a threat multiplier in the region. The Council is starting to prove that it is responsive to the security impact of climate change where and when it matters.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands strongly believes that the Security Council must ensure appropriate action by the United Nations, in New York, but especially on the ground in affected countries. That requires the United Nations to have the capabilities that match the extent of the challenge. By that I mean, first, an increased analytical capability, which is needed for joint risk assessments, conflict analysis and early warning, and I truly hope we can agree on the need for better analytical information. Secondly, it requires the capability to manage risks by encouraging more and better programming, notably prevention, stabilization and development efforts that are conflict and climate sensitive. Thirdly, it requires monitoring and assessing progress and modifying our programming when necessary. We will continue to encourage the Secretary-General to include climate-related risks in his reports to the Council when and where that applies.

To advance that agenda, we also believe that the United Nations needs an institutional home on climate and security. Therefore, we applaud the initiative to launch a knowledge hub on that subject. The United Nations needs institutionalized cooperation that is properly coordinated and embedded across the Organization and that will enhance and accelerate how existing United Nations agencies tackle this challenge. As a current member of the Council, we are ready to shoulder our responsibility and contribute to that end. On many occasions, the necessary actions will need to be taken on the ground by entities other than the Security Council. Both the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies have a role in assessing and managing climate-related security risks. In addition, the international community at large should also play its part.

Assuming our responsibility, the Kingdom of the Netherlands continues to offer a platform for

the climate and security debate through our annual Planetary Security Conference, in which Curaçao will also participate. We hope all interested parties make optimal use of that platform to explore solutions to the climate-related security risks in Mali, Iraq, Lake Chad and, of course, the Caribbean small island developing States.

Climate-related insecurity can affect us all. As the Prime Minister of Fiji put it, we are all in the same canoe. I also would like to cite Thomas Friedman, who concluded that "the only way to steer is to paddle as fast as or faster than the rate of change", in this case climate change.

In conclusion, we believe the Council has an important role to play. It is up to the Security Council to prevent instability, insecurity and the displacement and suffering of people everywhere. The Council therefore has to fulfil its responsibility to call for appropriate action when stability is at risk and in the case of climate-related threats to ensure peace for future generations.

We heard that climate change changes everything for everyone everywhere. This is our call and this is our moment.

Mr. Ashibayev (Kazakhstan): Let me start by congratulating you, Minister Wallström, and Sweden on assuming the Council's presidency for the month of July. I would also like to thank Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Amina Mohammed, Minister of Water Resources of Iraq Mr. Hassan Janabi, and civil society briefer Ms. Hindou Ibrahim for warning us about the need for urgent national, regional and global action.

The problem of climate change is becoming a central theme throughout the world community, which has significant economic, environmental and social consequences. Climate change is a threat multiplier as it can result in poverty, food insecurity, illegal migration, internal displacement, social instability and bitter conflicts because high-risk areas are essentially agricultural. The fight over scarce natural resources, such as land and water, have also resulted in long and brutal hostilities. The refugee problem and mass movements of people across the world due to climate-related causes are today resulting in animosity, xenophobia and exclusion and ending in unintended political upheavals. We have also seen violent insurgencies and terrorist organizations gaining a foothold when a vacuum is created.

With regard to today's topic of discussion, I would like to make the following observations and recommendations.

Climate-related security threats must be seen through the need for climate diplomacy and should be a part of overall United Nations efforts in conflict prevention. Combating climate-related security threats should also be an underpinning concept of sustaining peace, which should not be an end process, but rather incorporated and running parallel to prevention, resolution, recovery and rehabilitation.

Better climate-related security risk assessments and management strategies are required. Preventive action needs to be taken, such as foreseeing and mitigating timely action for building resilience through early action aimed at investigating and mitigating risk disasters. We need international cooperation and joint projects to build the capacity of developing countries to invest in new and diversified economies, live stock and other forms of livelihood. We also need to support low-income countries, adapt to new technologies and invest in renewable sources of energy.

The issue of climate change is one of the priorities of my country, considering the increased number of emergency situations, their scale and the growing number of affected people. Kazakhstan and the entire central Asian region has had its own tragic experience with the dying Aral Sea. That environmental disaster has brought many challenges and problems for the population and nature in neighbouring States, and has affected almost 60 million people.

Timely action taken by Kazakhstan in cooperation with the World Bank in putting a dam separating a small part of the Aral Sea helped to almost restore the water bed and restart the commercial fishery industry in the Kazakh part of the Aral Sea. However, the Aral Sea could definitely be seen as a threat multiplier in central Asia, as it aggravates existing problems, such as access to fresh water, desertification, food insecurity and many more. Concerned with that situation, central Asian nations established the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, which will have its next meeting of heads of State on 24 August under the chairmanship of Turkmenistan.

Kazakhstan for its part has taken voluntary action to cut the use of fossil fuels by 2030 and replace them with renewable energy by 2050. Kazakhstan is committed to upholding the Paris Agreement on Climate Change

and will continue to fulfil its obligations. From June to September 2017, we hosted the Astana Expo 2017 devoted to the theme of future energy to showcase and promote best practices in the field of sustainable energy and to provide support for developing countries in that sphere. The Expo site has been transformed into the International Centre for Green Technology to advance our efforts to curb climate change.

Kazakhstan stands ready to unite with others for global security. That is why the focus of our Security Council election campaign has been on food, water, energy and nuclear security. Those are enduring values even beyond our term in the Council.

Ms. Pierce (United Kingdom): May I once again thank and congratulate Sweden for selecting such a good menu of themes for us to discuss in the Security Council. I was here in 2007 for the first Security Council climate change debate (see S/PV.5663), and I think that today's discussion is already shaping up to be a very worthy continuation in that area. It is obvious that there is a great deal of common ground. I thank the Ministers who have taken the time to be present here in the Council today to share their very interesting, compelling and sad stories.

The Earth is known as the Blue Planet but many of today's speakers have described the way in which the most iconic geographic features of the planet are being irredeemably affected by climate change, which serves as an important warning to us all. It is hoped that today's meeting will provide us with a renewed sense of commitment to taking action. I would like in particular to welcome the remarks made earlier by the Minister of Water Resources of Iraq about joint cooperation with neighbouring countries in an attempt to solve some of the resource problems that flow from climate change.

As many others here would agree, it was Ms. Ibrahim's briefing about her people that was the most compelling. She painted a very graphic picture of the link between development and security, what it means on the ground for ordinary families and how vulnerable they are to developments, such as terrorist acts, because of the incredibly stark and unfair choices they face. I thank her for bringing that to the Council's attention. We in the United Kingdom will work as hard as we can with Sweden and other partners in an attempt to assist the United Nations in finding answers to the points raised by various Ministers today.

This topic must be considered holistically throughout the United Nations system. We very much welcome some of the ideas that you, Madam President, and the representative of Netherlands have outlined. The interplay between climate and security is not an abstract theoretical risk. If we do not manage climate change, it will threaten lives, livelihoods and economies across the globe. Along with migration, it will begin to have an impact on all economies, including those not directly affected by climate change. One statistic that really struck me was one provided by the World Bank, which estimates that 720 million people are at risk of being pushed into poverty by climate change by 2050. That is not only a shocking statistic in itself; it also means that climate change would reverse much of the progress made in the first quarter of the twenty-first century. We are therefore working against ourselves if we do not act to address the topic. That is in addition to the fact that there will be other consequences of conflict and instability that arise from climate change.

My Prime Minister, Theresa May, has gone on record to say that there is a clear moral imperative for developed economies to help those who stand to lose most from the consequences of climate change. We have pledged $7.7 billion in international climate financing to help alleviate the problem. The actions and solutions we agree on in the Security Council must take into account all the risks we face today and how they might interact, so as to address potential risks in the future. If I may say so, I believe that the Council has been quite good about reflecting those points in recent resolutions, in particular those on Lake Chad, Somalia and the Sahel. Our task is to effectively implement those resolutions.

For our part in the United Kingdom, we have committed to championing a sharper focus on building resilience to climate change. Ahead of the Secretary-General's 2019 climate summit, we will be collaborating with a range of actors, including Governments, aid agencies, regional bodies and the United Nations, to launch actions we hope will be genuinely transformational in order to build climate resilience. As i said, Madam President, we completely agree with you that we need an improved understanding of climate-related risks. We ourselves have been working on climate-risk assessment and were among the first countries to conduct a national climate-change risk assessment. We will support other countries in conducting their assessments. We have worked very

closely with experts in China, India and the United States to look at complex systemic risks, including how climate change interacts with security. Together with the Chinese, we will develop a framework to monitor climate-related risks continuously, which we hope to launch later this year. Therefore, there is a great deal of good work being done. We can all support each other and ensure that we build on our progress, rather than duplicate it.

I will conclude by saying that we have always known, in particular in the United Nations, about the interdependence between security, development, stability and other issues, such as human rights. That in itself is not a new concept; indeed, the Charter of the United Nations alludes to it. It is true to say that it is now all intensifying as the world become increasingly complex. Above all, it is exemplified by climate change, which was given a very moving voice by Ms. Ibrahim's testimony. I hope that we can all leave here with renewed determination to put right some of the problems highlighted by speakers.

Mr. Meza-Cuadra (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): We also are grateful for the convening of today's meeting on a very pressing and important subject. We thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister of Water Resources of Iraq, for their important briefings. We also thank Ms. Hindou Ibrahim, civil society representative, for her testimony, which I believe has inspired us all.

Peru believes it is crucial to understand that the growing socioeconomic and environmental impacts of climate change lead to humanitarian crises and conflicts, which, because of their scope, could pose a threat to international peace and security. We also believe that the primary responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of peace and security includes resolving and preventing the emergence, recurrence or worsening of conflicts and humanitarian crises, while addressing their root causes, with a view to promoting lasting peace. We therefore believe that the Council must strengthen and systematize its coordination with the United Nations system, in particular with those bodies and agencies directly involved in preventing and mitigating the negative effects of climate change, especially with regard to the most vulnerable people. We stress that such coordination should take into account the competencies and mandates of the various United Nations entities and promote synergies that are conducive to addressing the particular needs and situations of risk, crisis or conflict that Member States increasingly face. From the perspective of the Council, we believe that entails having timely information on the impact of climate change, both with regard to the situations on its agenda and those in which preventive action is necessary to maintain international peace and security.

Peru is a country that is vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. The retreat of tropical Andean glaciers has led to frequent droughts and flooding, which have resulted in food insecurity and new waves of migration, which in turn pose challenges to lasting peace. The situation compels us to reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism and to underscore that growing global interdependence demands that the Organization provide more coherent and effective responses to common problems and challenges, including climate change, poverty and inequality. In that regard, we emphasize that the Security Council can and should base its actions on a better understanding of contemporary challenges and of the factors of crisis and conflict, on a case by case basis, as well as of the necessary tools to address them.

We therefore appreciate the fact that since March 2017, the Security Council has recognized the adverse effects of climate change in areas such as the Sahel, Somalia and Lake Chad, which affect tens of millions of people. We especially appreciate that such recognition confirms the need for responses from the international community, and from the Council in particular. They should be based on an adequate assessment of the risks and the strategies to manage them. That accords with the reforms advocated by the Secretary-General.

We conclude by stressing the importance of working jointly on these issues, including with regional and subregional organizations, financial institutions, the private sector, academia and civil society, using holistic strategies that are more coherent, effective and efficient.

To summarize, let us work in a more coordinated manner to face the great challenge that lies before us within the scope of our respective competencies.

Mr. Cohen (United States of America): We thank you, Madam President, for convening this meeting. We also would like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Minister Janabi and Ms. Ibrahim for their important and compelling briefings this morning.

The task of addressing challenges to peace and security is complex and is influenced by many factors. The United States remains committed to strengthening international security in a comprehensive manner, and we recognize the efforts of the United Nations in helping to advance our understanding of emerging issues related to human security, including this one.

The Council most often is focused on armed conflict as the most conventional threat to international peace and security, but it is right that we also consider natural phenomena and disasters such as droughts, monsoons, tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, desertification, volcanic eruptions and other such events. They have taken lives, destroyed homes, impacted resources and caused widespread displacement both within and beyond national borders. Unlike conflicts, where there are sides to be taken, in response to these crises we are all on the same side: the side of survival, recovery and resilience.

In many parts of the world where vulnerable populations suffer from natural disasters, displacement and food and water scarcity, the United States is partnering with Governments and regional organizations to bring relief to those who need it most. We are applying innovative solutions to help communities better prepare for and respond to climate-related pressures. One example of United States assistance is in Iraq, where high temperatures and drought conditions present a particularly daunting challenge. We are the single largest donor to Iraqi-led stabilization programming supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which includes projects to restore access to household water and electricity in areas formerly under the control of Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham.

The United States has provided $265 million to the UNDP Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization since 2014. Those stabilization activities have helped set the conditions for more than 3 million Iraqis to return to their homes. That funding from the United States has enabled UNDP to fix water treatment plants and water networks, as well as to repair bridges across the Tigris and allow for greater freedom of movement.

At the request of the Government of Iraq, the United States has also played an essential role in maintaining Iraq's critical water infrastructure, especially at the Mosul Dam, the structural integrity of which was in question and which is vital to water management for millions of Iraqis living downstream. At significant expense, the United States deployed the United States Army Corps of Engineers to oversee the contracts awarded by Iraq to an Italian firm for emergency grouting and dam maintenance. The ongoing stabilization of the dam's foundation will allow the Iraqi Government to store more water to mitigate scarcity resulting from severe drought.

More broadly, the United States is also working closely with Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands to address specific challenges associated with shared waters through the Shared Waters Partnership managed by the Stockholm International Water Institute. We have been working together to promote the cooperative management of shared waters around the world where water is, or may become, a source of tension.

As the Lake Chad region grapples with its own water management issues, the United States is listening carefully to learn more about the challenges citizens there face and welcomes further dialogue on efforts to promote sustainable development there.

The United States acknowledges the special challenges that small island developing States face in achieving sustainable development, challenges related to their size, geographic isolation from markets and limited infrastructure and institutional capacity. We have heard from our friends in the Pacific that they consider climate change to be an existential threat to their populations, and we understand the priority they place on the United Nations system and the international community supporting their unique needs.

Our support for small island developing States takes many forms. We are taking concrete action to address priorities identified in the Samoa Pathway, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and other bilateral and multilateral initiatives. We participate in the Small Island Developing States Action Platform, and, in addition, the United States is seeking new ways to improve cooperation and align our programmes more closely with the priorities of small island developing States.

Disaster risk reduction and building resilience to cope with natural disasters are important elements of promoting sustainable development and eradicating extreme poverty. As appropriate, that should be

integrated into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels.

As a global leader in innovation, the United States continues to support access to cleaner and more efficient energy sources; the promotion of effective and sustainable land use practices and other activities aimed at improving resilience, particularly where such support benefits broader mutual economic development, and foreign policy and national security objectives. The United States wants to work with other countries to continue advancing the development and deployment of a broad array of technologies that will ultimately enable us to achieve greater resilience in the face of these daunting challenges. Once again, we appreciate this opportunity to reflect on these issues.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): At the outset I would like to thank you, Madam President, for taking the initiative to convene this Council debate on the problem of climate change and its consequences for international peace and security. It is a critical issue to which we must pay all the attention it deserves.

I would also like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed, for her important presentation, as well as for her commitment and her efforts in the fight against climate change. I also warmly thank the Minister of Water Resources of Iraq, Mr. Hassan Janabi, and Ms. Hindou Ibrahim for their very enlightening and inspiring statements.

Not a day goes by without an increasing number of us falling victim to the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation. While extreme climate events are often the most visible, other phenomena with less immediate effects — such as droughts, the salinization of soils and rising water levels — contribute to land degradation, coastal erosion and the depletion of water resources. Those negative impacts on natural resources, in the context of vulnerable populations and economies, can generate or re-ignite conflicts between communities, provoke population displacement and jeopardize international peace and security.

The eloquent statements we have heard this morning are a stark reminder that the impacts of climate change are imultiplying the risks to international stability. That is already the tough reality in many parts of the world, from the Sahel to the Middle East. Yet it also constitutes a threat to many other regions that are stable today but which will suffer the impacts of climate change tomorrow, affecting the stability of our countries and our societies in ways we could not have prevented.

In this context, I would like to share five main messages with the Council this morning.

My first message is a call to action. As our speakers emphasized, the threat of climate change to international peace and security is an objective fact that we cannot deny. Its effects are already being painfully felt and they will go on automatically increasing. From now on, we cannot turn a blind eye. It is our collective responsibility to tackle this existential challenge head-on and use all the tools at our disposal to address it. It is urgent, because every day lost makes the threat worse.

My second message has to do with the institutional debate that often resurfaces in our statements on the subject. Considering the urgency and importance of these challenges, we must rise above institutional arguments. The General Assembly and the Security Council must speak out on this threat to international peace and security, which concerns us all. However, I want to reassure everyone that the fact we are discussing the effects of climate change on international security here in the Council in no way undermines the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or the Paris Climate Change Agreement, which remain the multilateral frame of reference for the fight against climate change. In that regard, I would like to remind all concerned that our priority is ratifying the Paris Agreement and that we will have to collectively adopt rules for implementing it in December, under the Polish presidency of the twenty-fourth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. That is an essential condition for maintaining the positive momentum launched in Paris in 2015 in the fight against climate change and for ensuring that every country implements ambitious climate policies, as many countries, including China, for instance, have already done.

That is how we will be able to fulfil our collective commitment to keep the rise in the average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius and, if possible, 1.5 degrees. But the fact is that when we speak of the effects of climate change on international peace and security — and this is my third message — we are engaging in the process of conflict prevention. Here in New York, the international community must take ownership of the matter and decide to cooperate in dealing with the impact on international peace and security produced by the effects of climate change and

establish genuine preventive diplomacy to do that. In that regard, I want to voice our strong support for the Secretary-General's vision and ambition regarding conflict prevention and the peace continuum, which must comprehend all destabilizing factors, including those related to the effects of climate change and the collapse of biodiversity.

My fourth message concerns the ways in which we can ensure that the United Nations has a robust analytical capacity in this area. In that regard, we welcome the progress that the Council has made in the past few months in recognizing the adverse effects of climate change in various regions such as the Lake Chad basin, Somalia and Mali, as well as in calling for better assessment and management of climate change and ecological risks. Those advances should now be translated into concrete action. That demands that the United Nations develop its capacity to analyse risks in order to warn us about the security risks related to climate change in every region of the world. The Deputy Secretary-General has reminded us of the remarkable initiatives that she has undertaken with the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, and France fully supports and actively endorses those crucial major efforts. What we want to do is to expand that approach to other regions of the world. It will now also be necessary to take a next step and recommend measures and actions to be implemented by national Governments, United Nations agencies and regional organizations to both prevent the adverse effects of climate change on security and protect and restore biodiversity.

Finally, my fifth message is that the entire United Nations system must mobilize to tackle the challenges related to the security implications of climate change. The Secretariat, the General Assembly and the Security Council have a shared responsibility in that regard. They must rely on all of the specialized agencies and institutions dealing with the environment, together with the United Nations Environment Programme; they must work on climate with the UNFCCC, the World Meteorological Organization and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; on agriculture with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and on desertification with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in order to come up with appropriate analyses, propose courses of action and implement them on the ground.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you, Madam President, of France's resolute commitment to working alongside you to build a multilateral, twenty-first-century diplomacy that fully integrates the effects of climate change into its approach to conflict prevention. In the face of the reality of climate change, one of the greatest challenges of our time, we must move forward together and with our eyes wide open.

Mr. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, as well as today's briefers, Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister of Water Resources of Iraq, and Ms. Hindou Ibrahim, the representative of the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change. We would like to welcome President Waqa of Nauru and to acknowledge the great significance that climate change holds for his country. Russia also considers this issue extremely important. We are one of the leaders of the international climate process, both because of our contribution to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions and our efforts to universalize the regime on climate change under the auspices of the United Nations Frameworks Convention on Climate Change. My country is making active use of innovative approaches based on introducing cutting-edge technologies.

My statement may not be in tune with those of other Security Council members before me today. That said, however, I have to say that we are disappointed about today's Council meeting, and not because we object to collective efforts to combat climate change. Quite the contrary. We refuse to be reconciled to the fact that in our view today's meeting is yet another attempt to link the issue of preserving the environment to threats to international peace and security. Regrettably, we are creating the illusion among those who follow our work that the Council is now taking on the climate issue and that will immediately bring about a turning point. That is a dangerous illusion and a clear deception.

In various countries and regions, attempts are being made to ascribe a worsening socioeconomic and political situation to the climate factor. The resulting conclusion is that climate change is a threat to security generally, and yet those who promulgate that idea do not as a rule make the effort to bring scientifically sound, specific details to bear or clear explanations of the notions of security, conflict, threats or stability as they relate to the climate issue. These words are used in a very general sense while demanding that we recognize highly abstract connections. Such actions not

only do not help anyone, they mislead everybody and distract the Council from dealing with issues where it can make a genuine contribution to the quest for the right solution.

I will say it again. While we believe that climate change is a grave threat to us all, the Council has neither the specialized expertise nor the tools to put together viable solutions for effectively combating climate change. I am once again obliged to point out that climate change is not a universal challenge in the context of international security but should rather be addressed with regard to the specifics of each situation. Besides that, the role of the United Nations is to give support to States, which have the primary responsibility for responding to security challenges within their national borders and for independently determining strategies for that. Our international Organization should adhere strictly to the principle of the division of labour in its work and in the understanding that each of the main United Nations organs should operate within its area of responsibility.

The basis for introducing climate issues in the Security Council is frequently the premise that climate change is a so-called threat multiplier and a catalyst for acts of violence. If we are so principled about this, why are we always silent during the discussions initiated on this pretext about a no less serious aspect of the issue, the damage to the environment that results from violent military operations and unilateral sanctions, a glaring example of which have been the bombings of Yugoslavia, Libya and Syria by Western coalitions? It is strange, to say the least, that no speakers today have expressed concern about the massive environmental damage that such action inflicts, not to mention the colossal harm to the health of the citizens of those countries.

It is no secret that NATO's bombing of the territory of the former Yugoslavia using munitions with radioactive compounds, chiefly depleted uranium, that pollute the environment, spawned a surge in cancers and had an adverse impact on the general and reproductive health of the population living in the affected areas, which to this day still need decontamination and rehabilitation. The situation following the Libyan venture has been equally tragic. The NATO rocket strikes and bombings of its oil infrastructure, as well as the operations by armed opposition groups supported by the West in the vicinity of oil enterprises, led to their partial or total destruction, colossal fires and pollution of the atmosphere with the burning of oil and petroleum by-products.

I should not omit to point out that the ongoing illegal presence of Western coalition forces on Syrian territory is an obstacle to the restoration of Government control throughout the country and therefore to the implementation of its national legislative norms on the use of natural resources, including environmental norms, and in general to restoring domestic activity in those areas, including household waste management. The situation is exacerbated by unilateral anti-Syrian sanctions that deprive the country of the possibility of buying the equipment and materials needed for environmentally safe industrial production.

An alarming situation is developing with regard to the work of the Donetsk water filtration station, which has been subject to regular shelling by Ukrainian armed forces. If the chlorine gas in its storage tanks leaks, it could be an environmental and humanitarian disaster. It is hard to believe that the initators of such actions were unaware of the negative consequences of environmental pollution by radioactive materials or the destruction of oil facilities. However, they continue to choose to pay no attention to it and are in no hurry to help to mitigate the damage that has been done. In that connection, we believe that issues of environmental pollution resulting from criminal military operations and illegal unilateral sanctions can be viewed as threats that at the very least are no less significant to the climate problem.

With regard to climate change, I want to say once again that the constant securitization, as it were, of this vital issue irreparably undermines the process of our joint quest to resolve it. This year there are plans to adopt guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. At the same time, the member States of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will discuss joint action and coordination on climate-related efforts in the Talanoa Dialogue Platform, whose founding principles are depoliticizing climate discussions, preventing mutual blame-laying and striving to understand what we can get done by joining forces.

We are just as eager as Ms. Hindou Ibrahim, in her emotional statement today, to ensure that climate change does not interfere with the lives of indigenous peoples. Russia is also helping small island States through its contributions to the United Nations Development Programme. We are ready to help and are

doing all we can to ensure that the collective efforts of the specialized entities and mechanisms can solve these problems, but it is clear that today's discussion in the Council is taking the issue in the exact opposite direction, to speculations on the climate issue and its exploitation to solve purely political problems, impose one-sided standards and abandon practical action for demagoguery and public-relations posturing.

We believe it is essential to allow all the United Nations mechanisms related to combating climate change to do their work in peace, without creating artificially intersecting approaches that merely obstruct the advancement of our shared interests. Only through joint practical action, conducted through the existing expert formats, can we achieve our aim of preserving the global climate in the interests of the current and future generations of humankind.

Ms. Cordova Soría (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to welcome you, Madam President, and to commend the work that the Swedish delegation has been doing as President of the Security Council. I also want to welcome the presence of Mr. Eugene Philip Rhuggenaath, Prime Minister of Curaçao of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and to thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister of Water Resources of Iraq, and Ms. Hindou Ibrahim of the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change for their briefings.

Climate change is one of the most important global challenges of our time. We want to emphasize the fact that developing countries, despite historically being the ones that contribute the least to climate change, continue to suffer the most from its adverse effects and from the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters. According to the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017*, between 1990 and 2015 more than 1.6 million people died due to the effects of climate change. Moreover, between 2000 and 2013, an average of 211 million people were affected due to increasingly extreme natural disasters.

Climate change threatens not only prospects for sustainable development, but also the very existence and survival of the countries, societies and ecosystems of Mother Earth. We deplore the fact that some of the most highly industrialized countries have not taken any responsibility for the problems generated by climate change. Climate change has become an escape valve to avoid discussing basic issues such as how the model of capitalist development, excessive consumption and wasteful production causes or exacerbates the problems of environmental degradation and depletion of resources, thereby impeding the sustainable development of our peoples. In some countries, climate change is an existential threat, while in others it means the loss of biodiversity, an increase in endangered species or the loss of food security. This shortage of natural resources like water can lead to increased social tension. Moreover, as the sea level rises, the conditions in many coastal areas and small islands can progressively deteriorate until they become simply uninhabitable or even disappear.

All those factors could make the population vulnerable to social conflicts or forced to leave their homes; we would then be faced with the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people as climate migrants, possibly generating new conflicts or aggravating existing ones. The adverse effects of climate change have a series of consequences, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of human rights, including the right to life, the right to adequate food, the right to adequate housing, the right to safe drinking water and sanitation, the right to development and the right to peace.

The challenges facing the Security Council in the fulfilment of its mandate are indeed many and complex, but we believe that those that truly jeopardize the efforts of the Council and our Organization to prevent the breach of international peace and security are linked to the insufficient application of the mechanisms provided for in the Charter of the United Nations. We are convinced that it is essential to maintain the focus on the powers and mandates of each organ, carrying out the coordination tasks that allow for the best alternatives to face the problems emerging from conflicts, thereby avoiding the unnecessary duplication of work and, above all, overlap and interference in the specific mandates of the other organs.

We agree that climate change can generate possible causes of conflict and social tension. Nevertheless, we believe that the Security Council is not the appropriate organ or venue to address that issue. We are convinced that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change are the main international and intergovernmental platforms for confronting, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects.

If we intend to address this sensitive and delicate situation, we must essentially analyse the problem's underlying causes. In that regard, Bolivia regrets that the most industrialized countries, instead of confronting causes such as the allegedly civilizing model, which is based on a voracious financial architecture in which the wealth of the majority is concentrated in the hands of a few, continue to promote policies of war with yearly increases to its enormous budget. We are convinced that the military machinery of the most powerful countries on the planet has been busy destroying entire towns and innocent civilizations with the sole desire of appropriating oil, gas or strategic minerals. The high humanitarian cost of these policies of war and appropriation of natural resources goes hand in hand with the military expenses they represent, at the expense of the population and perpetuating the cycle of poverty, need and confrontation.

In that sense, we echo the statement made by President Evo Morales during his speech during the high-level segment of the General Assembly in 2017, when he said:

> "Inequality is immoral. If 800 million people suffer from hunger, it is not because there is a lack of food. If millions of children die from infection, it is not because there is a lack of medicine ... If there are poor people in the world, it is not because there are no resources ... Due to war, terrorism and other conflicts, we are experiencing the worst humanitarian crisis". (*A/72/PV.6, p. 15*)

We call on these so-called developed countries to assume their responsibilities in the framework of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities through financing, technology transfer and capacity-building in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. As a result of the appropriation and exploitation of the natural resources of many of our countries, today we cannot consider ourselves industrialized.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): We once again thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed for her briefing. I would like to express our appreciation to her and to the President of the Council and the Chairperson the African Union for the very important mission they conducted very recently to two African countries that are among those seriously affected by climate change. That visit was very meaningful.

I would also like to thank the other briefers, particularly Ms. Hindou Ibrahim, whose passionate presentation was fully aligned with the purpose of this meeting and the heavy responsibility that briefers have to be as objective as possible and not be partial. That is very critical and we should learn from today's meeting. Frankly, what we heard today almost validates the concerns expressed by some colleagues.

I wish to recognize the presence among us of the President of Nauru and the Prime Ministers of Curaçao, Kingdom of the Netherlands. I would also like to greet the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to the entire global community. No country can remain unaffected, as the Deputy Secretary-General said. Its devastating consequences not only undermine development gains, but they also threaten the very existence of our communities. Although their contribution is negligible, it is well known that it is developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable among them that literally know nothing about how long they can survive, that disproportionately suffer the impacts of climate change.

We therefore underline that climate change requires urgent and concerted global action and responses, anchored primarily in promoting inclusive and sustainable development. That is also why what we did in 2015, when we unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals was so historic and the expression of multilateralism at its best. It is with that in mind that we concur with the assessment of the Council, as reflected in presidential statement S/PRST/2011/15, that

> "possible adverse effects of climate change may, in the long run, aggravate certain existing threats to international peace and security".

We recognize that climate change, in certain circumstances, could create conditions for conflict or exacerbate it. In communities where there is heavy dependence on natural resources for livelihoods, the likelihood of intercommunal violence or cross-border or regional conflicts is high. The situation in the Lake Chad basin or the Sahel region is a clear manifestation of the link between climate change and conflicts, and the briefing by the Deputy Secretary-General yesterday (see S/PV.8306), following her joint high-level visit with the African Union, highlighted that aspect.

On the other hand, it is also important to note that climate change or climate-related environmental

change does not automatically result in conflict. The lack of durable and comprehensive solutions aimed at addressing climate-change-induced migration, insecurities, increased tensions and competition for resources could lead to localized or cross-border conflicts in various parts of the world. In this regard, addressing the root causes of such climate-induced conflicts remains of vital importance. We need to do so in a comprehensive manner; this would require taking concrete measures to reduce the vulnerabilities of States to the impact of climate change and creating a cooperative framework to mitigate such impacts, including climate-induced migration and displacement.

Redoubling our efforts to ensure sustainable development for current and future generations in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, inter alia, is critical. A genuine commitment to multilateralism should make this self-evident. Furthermore, ensuring the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and of our commitments under various frameworks aimed at addressing the adverse impacts of climate change is a prerequisite for addressing climate-change-induced conflicts or security risks.

In this regard, all countries, particularly developed ones, should take concrete measures to honour their commitments and pledges in line with the Paris Agreement by providing sufficient and sustained climate financing to developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable. The facilitation of the transfer of appropriate technology ought, naturally, to be part of this obligation. Such efforts, in our view, would complement national and regional efforts to address the adverse impacts of climate change and prevent climate-change-related security threats and conflicts.

To that end, the General Assembly and its relevant subsidiary bodies and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the relevant intergovernmental frameworks established to address the root causes of climate change and its adverse impacts, should continue to play the primary role, as affirmed by the Security Council in its presidential statement S/PRST/2011/15.

Where the impacts of climate change have become a threat to the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, has a role in analysing the conflict and the security implications and finding a path to peace and security. The Council, in collaboration with the relevant regional and subregional organizations, could also take concrete measures to manage climate-change-induced security risks and conflicts, in line with comprehensive national and regional priorities. For instance, regional initiatives such as the one by the Economic Community of West African States to conduct a comprehensive study and recommend an action plan to address climate-change-induced conflicts in West Africa could be cited as an example.

In conclusion, I would stress the need for all relevant United Nations organs, within their own mandates, to take concrete measures in line with their national plans and priorities to address the root causes and negative effects of climate change and related security threats or conflicts.

Mr. Ma Zhaoxu (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like at the outset, Madam, to welcome your presence here in New York to preside over this debate. I also thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed, and Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister for Water Resources of the Republic of Iraq, for their briefings, and Ms. Ibrahim, representative of civil society in Chad, for her statement.

Climate change affects human survival and development. It is a daunting global challenge. In recent years, the concerted efforts of countries to protect the global environment and address climate change have yielded remarkable results. However, responding to climate change and achieving sustainable development remains an urgent long-term task for the international community. Given the current circumstances, we must work together to address climate change.

First, it is important for the international community to foster a communal vision of a shared future for humankind and actively rise to global challenges. Countries must strengthen exchanges and cooperation to respond to climate change and provide assistance to developing countries through technology transfer and capacity-building. The United Nations and the relevant international and regional organizations should enhance their coordination and play a positive role in addressing climate change.

Secondly, the international community must uphold equality and justice and ensure that international rules

are effectively respected and implemented. Countries should fully respect the international agreements concluded in the area of climate change, reject a zero-sum mentality, enhance benefit- and responsibility-sharing and endeavour to achieve mutual benefits and a win-win outcome.

Thirdly, the international community must implement the Paris Agreement in earnest. It is important to take into account countries' national circumstances; respect their differences, in particular those of developing countries; adhere to the principle of common but differentiated responsibility; and help developing countries, especially the African countries and small island developing States, to strengthen their capacity for adaptation, mitigation, management and financing.

Fourthly, the international community must build a new concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security to properly tackle climate-related security risks. At present, security threats of all kinds continue to emerge. All countries must take integrated measures, strengthen international cooperation and embark on the path to sustainable development, with a view to addressing climate-related security risks such as land and water resource depletion, food insecurity, humanitarian crises and mass migration flows through the achievement of common development.

China believes that all Member States should, in line with the Charter of the United Nations and their obligations under the relevant documents, and based on the functions and divisions of labour of United Nations organs, promptly address and properly respond to climate-change issues.

Upholding the right approach to justice and interests, China has been participating in international cooperation on climate change. We stand ready to continue to implement our commitment to South-South cooperation on climate change and support other developing countries in responding to climate-change challenges. We are committed to working with the rest of the international community in a concerted effort to safeguard our common homeland, on which our survival depends.

Mr. Djédjé (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I wish to welcome the presence among us today of Mr. Baron Divavesi Waqa, President of Nauru; Mr. Eugene Philip Rhuggenaath, Prime Minister of Curaçao, Kingdom of the Netherlands; and Mr. Yerzhan Ashikbayev, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. I wish also to thank Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General; Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister for Water Resources of the Republic of Iraq; and Ms. Hindou Ibrahim, representative of the non-governmental organization International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change. We found their enlightening briefings and important recommendations very instructive on the issue of climate change and its growing linkage to the intercommunal tensions and conflicts plaguing many parts of the world.

In 2007, upon the initiative of the United Kingdom, the Security Council took up issues relating to the effects of climate change on peace and security for the first time. Since then, the Council's interest in this issue has been strengthened and today reflects a global awareness of the need to develop collective and sustainable responses to this challenge facing our planet. Indeed, the Council's commitment to promoting sustainable solutions to the impacts of climate change on peace and security has become concrete over the years through the adoption of numerous resolutions and presidential statements, including resolution 2349 (2017) and presidential statements S/PRST/2011/15 and S/PRST/2018/3. In these texts, the Council expressed its concern about the effects of climate change, considering them to be factors that aggravate existing situations or situations that might trigger crises, particularly in regions where pre-existing sociopolitical and economic vulnerabilities constitute fertile ground for the outbreak of armed violence.

The situation with regard to Lake Chad, on which some 20 million people depend, is by itself emblematic of the devastating effects of environmental shortages on peace and stability. Having lost a large part of its water volume, the Lake Chad basin region, like the Sahel region, symbolizes all the environmental, security and humanitarian challenges facing the African continent. For the populations living on the shores of Lake Chad, who derive most of their income and means of subsistence from this source, the decline in water and fishery resources can be a factor of tension and even cause an upsurge in jihadist activity, which is the thrust of resolution 2349 (2017), recognizing the effects of climate change on the stability of the Lake Chad region.

For Côte d'Ivoire, this is an essential question whose undeniable impact on peace and security invites us to go beyond the usual divisions concerning

the relevance of the bodies where these questions should be discussed, in order to provide consensual answers capable of reversing the climate change curve and its harmful effects on peace and stability, in a continent already facing too many challenges. My country therefore takes this welcome opportunity to stress the need to take into account the security implications of climate change in the analysis of the root causes of conflicts and in the formulation of strategies for their prevention and management, in accordance with the recommendations of presidential statements S/PRST/2011/15 and S/PRST/2018/3. This is particularly necessary when climate factors may pose challenges to the implementation of the Council's mandates or compromise peacebuilding processes in a post-crisis context.

Côte d'Ivoire, an essentially agricultural country, has not been immune to the large-scale reduction in its forest cover, largely linked both to human activity and to a decline in rainfall, itself induced by the climate change observed in recent decades. From 16 million hectares of forest in the 1950s, the remaining area of forest, according to United Nations estimates, had fallen by 2015 to less than 3.4 million hectares. This worrying phenomenon, also experienced by other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, constitutes — along with desertification, the depletion of arable land and water shortages due to prolonged episodes of drought — factors of instability in regions where access to and control of resources have become sociopolitical issues generating conflicts, which sometimes take dramatic identity and religious turns.

Shortages of water and cultivable land as a result of climate change have exacerbated migration and demographic pressures on scarce existing resources, as evidenced by the environmental, security and humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad basin. Indeed, according to Food and Agriculture Organization estimates, 6.9 million people are food insecure, and 2.5 million people are internally displaced in this area of the Lake Chad basin, where Boko Haram and transnational criminal networks have taken root, taking advantage of local vulnerabilities and contradictions.

The establishment of these terrorist and criminal networks is also facilitated by the radicalization of a fringe of young people confronted with unemployment and poverty. Moreover, the Sahel region, which is also still facing the effects of climate change, is experiencing a resurgence of autonomist movements, driven by the desire to change political institutions and governance mechanisms.

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, concerned about the security challenges related to climate change, organized, during its 774th meeting, held on 21 May 2018, in Addis Ababa, a public meeting devoted to the link between climate change and conflicts in Africa and the response to security implications. My country endorses the relevant recommendations of this meeting, including the need to strengthen the resilience of African States in the face of climate change, as well as the recommendations' integration into national and regional conflict-prevention strategies. The Peace and Security Council also reiterated the importance of multilateralism in the fight against climate change, of which the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, of 12 December 2015 remains a perfect illustration, and urged the signatory States of the Agreement to implement the relevant commitments.

The Peace and Security Council further encourages the international community to support subregional strategies to address the root causes of conflicts, including those proposed by the first Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Climate Commission of the Congo Basin, held on 29 April, in Brazzaville, and the International Conference on Saving Lake Chad, held 26 to 28 February 2018, in Abuja. The Peace and Security Council also stressed the importance of the preventive approach by emphasizing the strengthening of the capacities of national and community early-warning and early-response mechanisms, such as the early warning and response network of the Economic Community of West African States, as well as the integration into their indicators of the premises of community violence, climatic factors and their effects on peace and security.

Côte d'Ivoire would like to draw the attention of the Security Council to the existence in Africa of numerous initiatives based on the commitment of States to taking ownership of their collective security within multilateral frameworks that favour a preventive approach through dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes related to the management of natural resources and the climate. These subregional approaches, which enable Member States, united by the ideals of solidarity, sharing and peace, to work together to strengthen peace and security, a guarantee of sustainable development, are only waiting to be supported by the Security Council.

Mr. Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea) (*spoke in Spanish*): Throughout this week, we have been addressing issues of paramount importance related to the maintenance of peace and security. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea once again thanks and congratulates the Swedish presidency and Foreign Minister Margot Wallström for bringing to the table the issue we are discussing this morning, namely, "Maintenance of international peace and security: risks related to climate change".

We also thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, who has been with us during these discussions, for her briefing and reflections; Ms. Hindou Ibrahim of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change, who has presented us with a stark vision of the reality of the effects of climate change and the risks it poses to peace and security at the local, national and regional levels; and the Iraqi Minister of Water Resources, Mr. Hassan Janabi, for his illustrative reports that make us see more clearly the complex issue of establishing the relationship between climate change and the maintenance of peace and security, that is, the risks that climate change poses to the world's peace and security.

On behalf of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, I welcome the presence among us of His Excellency the President of Narau, the Prime Minister of Curaçao, Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

During a visit that Nigerien President Mahamadou Issoufou made to the Lake Chad region in March 2017, he told those accompanying him that he did not believe that Boko Haram would have taken root without the shrinking of Lake Chad, which has lost 90 per cent of its surface area since the 1960s, with devastating effect on local livelihoods and existence.

Shortly after that visit, the Security Council adopted resolution 2349 (2017), which addressed the multifaceted dimensions of the Boko Haram conflict. Among its many elements, the resolution recognized the adverse effects of climate and ecological changes, among other factors, on the stability of the region, including through water scarcity, drought, desertification, land degradation and food insecurity. It emphasized the need for by Governments and the United Nations to undertake appropriate risk assessments and adopt risk management strategies in relation to those climate-related factors.

It should be recalled that in January, the Security Council adopted presidential statement S/PRST/2018/3, which addressed the activities undertaken by the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel in the areas of conflict prevention, mediation and good offices, and welcomed the efforts of the countries of the region to combat terrorism and transnational crime. The statement used the language of resolution 2349 (2017), which recognized the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes, among other factors, on the stability of West Africa and the Sahel, thereby reflecting the security implications of those factors for the region.

For Equatorial Guinea, international peace and security are threatened by various elements, each representing a different challenge to the international community. In addition to the threats posed by political, religious and terrorist agendas, the climate change affecting the entirety of our planet undoubtedly presents new risks, raising those already in existence to more dangerous and violent levels. In fact, climate change affects basic and fundamental aspects of human life, as we have already mentioned, such as access to drinking water, the deterioration of land quality to produce food, resulting in food shortages, and the reduction of land suitable for living. All those worrying aspects intensify the struggle among different groups for control of scarce resources, thereby increasing the risks and dangers of conflicts in various parts of the planet.

Coping with climate change no longer depends solely on scientists and academics. It has also become a high priority political issue that needs to be addressed frequently so as to ensure progress in achieving the related objectives. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea believes and suggests that the climate issue should be included in all reports submitted to the Security Council on the maintenance of peace and security, as is the issue of women and children in conflict, in order to better understand and address the adverse implications of climate change on various conflicts.

For Equatorial Guinea, a key question is how the debate on this issue can contribute to the Council fully assuming its commitment to climate change. Another question is how to improve the analysis that the Security Council receives on how and where climate-related issues are a factor of conflict or insecurity. That is why we strongly advocate the improvement of the

analyses and information on the subject provided by the Secretary-General.

In conclusion, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea once again congratulates Sweden on its decision to raise this key issue and expresses its commitment to supporting the international community's action to combat the adverse effects of climate change.

Mr. Lewicki (Poland): At the outset, let me thank the Swedish presidency for organizing this highly important debate. I would also like to thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and Minister Hassan Janabi for their excellent briefings. Last but not least, I am very grateful to Ms. Hindou Ibrahim for her very touching statement and for having reminded us, the Security Council, of our responsibility to tackle the security challenges resulting from climate change, because we are talking about the effects of climate change on the lives of ordinary people. We also welcome the President of Nauru and look forward to hearing his statement on how climate change is affecting his country, as has been mentioned by several speakers. It is a kind of existential threat to a number of small island States.

More than 10 years ago, the Security Council discussed the link between climate change and security for the first time (see S/PV.5663), as mentioned by Ambassador Karen Pierce. Since then, the situation has not improved. Since then, the number of climate change-related conflicts has only increased. That is why we believe that it is more timely than ever that we are having this debate right now. It falls fully within the Security Council's mandate. If the Security Council does not address this topic on climate-related security risks, we will fail the people on the ground and fail to deliver on our mandate.

Having said that, I wish to stress that we simply cannot neglect the negative impacts of climate change on global peace and security. What we are seeing, as Ms. Ibrahim oultined in her statement, is that those impacts are threat multipliers that can aggravate poverty, environmental degradation and social tensions, and can lead to escalations of local and regional conflicts.

Poland would like to underscore the inevitable need of acting in the spirit of multilateralism. The problem of climate change is not a problem only of the affected or risk-exposed countries. It is also a global challenge of the whole international community and needs a global response. The only effective way to respond to that challenge is to act together. Every country should share the responsibility to act.

The effective prevention of conflicts that have resulted from climate change is definitely more cost effective than addressing their consequences. That is why the focus should be put primarily on preventing and mitigating the root causes of conflicts and natural disasters, as well as on enhancing countries' adaptive capacities, strengthening resilience and reducing their vulnerability to climate change.

We believe that the Security Council is key to enhancing the United Nations response to conflicts, in particular in the context of conflict prevention in regions affected by adverse effects of climate change, such as the Lake Chad basin, West Africa, the Sahel and Somalia. The Council should underline the need for better climate-related security risk assessment and management strategies, as has been discussed by a number of previous speakers. In order to fulfil such a task, the Security Council should be equipped with accurate climate-related security risk information, analysis and early-warning mechanisms. We cannot overestimate the critical role of reliable data about climate-change related risks, which is key to avoiding conflicts, building resilience and preventing natural disasters. Therefore, we believe that in order to implement adequate prevention measures, comprehensive information from the field is inevitable. All States and organizations should use the full potential of their field offices and diplomatic missions in order to gather reliable and current information from the regions affected or vulnerable to climate change and conflicts.

Poland would like to see regular discussions and reporting on climate change and security on the agenda of the Security Council. That is why we are grateful that Sweden has addressed that topic. Such debates could complement other deliberations carried out in United Nations forums, mainly in the General Assembly, within their respective mandates and by various international and regional organizations and other stakeholders. That is the point we have been making consistently in recent years and which we will be raising in the future if need be.

This year, Poland will assume the presidency of the twenty-fourth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP). This will be the fourth time we will hold the COP

presidency, and we intend to use our past experience to deliver positive conclusions. While leading the climate negotiations, we will bear in mind that climate security issues constitute the core threat for countries vulnerable to climate change, especially small island developing States and least developed countries.

In conclusion, let me underline that effective responses to climate change and conflict are strictly linked to the implementation of the security and sustainable development agendas. Only by taking coherent and integrated actions in those areas can tangible and durable progress be accomplished.

Mr. Alotaibi (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): We congratulate you, Madam President, on participating in and presiding over this important meeting. We also welcome the participation of the President of Nauru and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. We thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohamed; the civil society representative, Ms. Ibrahim; and the Minister of Water Resources of Iraq, Mr. Hassan Janabi, for their valuable briefings.

As a state neighbouring Iraq, we have similar environmental concerns. We agree with Mr. Janabi that climate change has effects on the ecological system in many parts of his country, particularly in the marshlands, as he outlined in his statement. This requires closer coordination at all levels in order to mitigate the adverse impacts on the environment and the people, and to revitalize and develop this area again.

We agree with everybody in the Council that the phenomenon of climate change is clearly inevitable and that it has become a concern to all nations and peoples of the world, given its grave consequences and challenges in our times. It imperils the security and even the very existence of certain States and is a harbinger of a humanitarian disaster. Contrary to what some people believe, human activities are the main reason for this change, as wars and conflicts are no longer the sole reason for instability and insecurity.

In that regard, we underscore the role of the Security Council, the organ entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security by the Charter of the United Nations, although we believe that the Council is not the ideal organ in which to tackle the phenomenon of climate change owing to the multidimensional consequences that need to be addressed within the context of sustainable development. Nonetheless, the efforts of the Council are an integral part of the efforts undertaken by other United Nations bodies and agencies, within their respective mandates, in order to mitigate the impact of climate change and the potential risks it may pose to security. Those efforts are underpinned by the requirements and provisions of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which are the legal instruments binding us to cooperate in that area.

We cannot discuss international measures to address the phenomenon of climate change without reaffirming the importance of the implementation of common but differentiated responsibilities by States, which was enshrined in the 2015 Paris Agreement. We welcome the Agreement's entry into force at a record pace.

With a view to achieving multidimensional sustainable development, we must establish conditions conducive to combating the serious consequences of climate change, for example, drought, desertification, famine, political upheavals, conflicts over resources, mass displacement, cyclones, floods, heat waves, rising water levels and food insecurity. Despite the efforts undertaken to counter climate change, the path ahead in order to mitigate its effects is still a long one. Concerted international action is a sine qua non to mitigating the impact of climate change and its serious repercussions for our planet. It will take political will and cooperation, as well as international solidarity, to attain those objectives.

Without a doubt, developing countries are making exceptional efforts to address climate change and strengthen their capacities to adapt themselves to its consequences. They are the first countries to be affected by climate change. The same holds true for small island developing States and numerous African States. We hope that developed countries will deliver on their commitments vis-à-vis the leading role that they need to play in adopting the bold and urgent measures needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and maintain the agreed temperature level.

The international concern about climate change is accompanied by a similar concern on the part of the State of Kuwait. We, like other nations, are affected by it and has therefore joined international efforts to combat it. We will spare no effort at the local, regional and international levels to address it. My country sought to promote collective action from the beginning to the

conclusion of the negotiations on the Paris Agreement. We have incorporated the commitments arising from the Agreement into our national priorities, projects and programmes. That is a reflection of our responsibility to future generations, given our environment-friendly role within the framework of mitigating the consequences of climate change and adapting to it.

In conclusion, the State of Kuwait will continue to support the United Nations endeavours to address the challenges caused by the phenomenon of climate change. We believe that addressing this phenomenon is a joint responsibility, albeit to varying degrees, in line with national priorities and capacities, which will lead to realizing the aspirations of all our nations.

The President: I now give the floor to the President of the Republic of Nauru.

President Waqa: It is my honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 12 Pacific small island developing States. We align ourselves with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

At the outset, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Government of Sweden for hosting today's important debate. For nearly a decade, our group has been advocating at the United Nations for a robust response to the security implications of climate change and so we fully appreciate the courage that Sweden has shown in taking on this sensitive issue.

Since acknowledging that the adverse effects of climate change may aggravate certain existing threats to international peace and security, the Security Council has begun to consider the issue according to specific geopolitical contexts. In our view, it is essential that we begin examining the ways that climate change interacts with the drivers of conflict and how the United Nations system can respond appropriately.

The Paris Agreement notwithstanding, climate change is not going away. There will be no return to a normal climate in our lifetime. In fact, the situation will continue to deteriorate for decades, even if we achieve our global goals. Extreme events are projected to occur at a frequency and magnitude well outside human experience and we must take seriously the potential for abrupt climate change to cross dangerous tipping points. There is strong scientific evidence that natural systems are increasingly out of balance. However, we do not have a good understanding of how our human systems will be impacted by such new and unprecedented stressors. Some of the greatest threats posed by climate change may be not the actual biophysical impacts, but rather the deficiencies in our response to them. Greater competition for scarce resources, the destruction of critical infrastructure, the interruption of public services and human displacement will all test the resilience of our institutions and governance structures.

Climate change will be the defining issue of the next century and our preparation is long overdue. That is why the Pacific small island developing States are calling for the appointment of a special representative of the Secretary-General on climate and security. The special representative would fill a critical gap within the United Nations system, as well as provide the Council with the information it needs to fulfil its existing mandate. Monitoring potential tipping points at the nexus of climate and security; facilitating regional and cross-border cooperation on issues affected by climate change; engaging in preventive diplomacy and supporting post-conflict situations when climate change is a risk factor are all critical functions that a Special Representative could begin to address, in coordination with other relevant United Nations bodies.

The Pacific small island developing States first offered that proposal in 2011 and we have made every effort to address the concerns of all countries, the greatest of which has been the fear of encroachment by Security Council on other mandates of other bodies. Let me be clear: the appointment of a Special Representative should not expand the Security Council's mandate. The Special Representative serves the Secretary-General, as the title implies. That being said, the Council needs better climate-related security risk information, analysis and early-warning mechanisms to be able to make informed decisions and carry out its main functions of preventing conflict and sustaining peace. That is consistent with the intent of the 2011 presidential statement (S/PRST/2011/18) and fully supportive of recent Security Council resolutions on the Lake Chad basin, West Africa, the Sahel and Somalia.

Seven years ago, my predecessor sounded the alarm in the Chamber (see S/PV.6587) and the Council demurred. Since then, the security risks of climate change — along with global emissions — have only grown. The Security Council, along with the United Nations system, as a whole, needs a coherent approach to address this pressing issue. The Council has taken a

few tepid steps in the right direction, but it is not enough, which is why the Pacific small island developing States reiterate their call for the appointment of a special representative of the Secretary-General on climate and security. We strongly urge all members of the Council to join us.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Maldives.

Mr. Mohamed (Maldives): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which represents 37 States Members of the United Nations.

I would like to thank Sweden, the President of the Council for the month of July, for convening today's important debate on climate-related security risks.

AOSIS welcomes in particular the participation in today's debate of His Excellency Mr. Baron Waqa, President of Nauru, and the Prime Minister of Curaçao, Kingdom of the the Netherlands. I would also like to thank Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed; Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister of Water Resources of Iraq; and Ms. Hindou Ibrahim of the International Indigenous People Forum on Climate Change for their briefings.

Three previous Security Council debates have been held on this very issue — on 30 July 2015, chaired by New Zealand (see S/PV.7499); 22 November 2016, chaired by Senegal (see S/PV.7818); and 20 December 2017, chaired by Japan (see S/PV.8144). In addition, there have also been two Arria Formula meetings on climate change and security. In 2011, the Council issued presidential statement S/PRST/2011/15, on climate change, calling for the inclusion in the Secretary-General's reports of conflict analysis and contextual information on the possible security implications of climate change.

Should the Security Council discuss climate change? That is the wrong question to ask. A more appropriate question is: Should the Council take appropriate measures when man-made actions result in the destruction of islands, cities, nations or entire livelihoods in some countries? AOSIS therefore welcomes today's debate on how the Council can perform its functions more effectively through a better understanding of climate-related risks to international peace and security.

As we are faced with new and emerging risks, including those arising from climate change, it is important to understand these issues to tailor responses accordingly. AOSIS believes that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) should remain the primary United Nations agency for responding to the phenomenon of climate change. The United Nations existing institutional architecture on the issue of climate change — whether concerning mitigation, adaptation, the transfer of technology or advancing basic principles, such as common but differentiated responsibilities related to respective capabilities in responding to climate change — should be promoted within the framework set out by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Yet, where there are clear threats to the security and survival of any country — whether such threats originate in climate risks or from conventional military aggression — the Security Council has to take appropriate action.

The group of countries that I represent here — the 37 small island States — are on the front line of impact from climate change, and the very existence of some of those countries is threatened by climate change and the security risks arising from its impacts. As the Atlantic hurricane season is under way, a number of small island developing States have yet to recover fully from last year's hurricanes, which uprooted entire communities, caused substantial damage to vital infrastructure and rendered entire islands uninhabitable.

But it is not just extreme weather events with which we must contend. Many small island States are experiencing unpredictable rain patterns that have resulted in prolonged droughts, as well as floods. We are also experiencing coastal erosion and saltwater contamination of agricultural lands and freshwater reserves. The documentation related to this issue rightly notes that climate change is reshaping the world's oceans and coastlines. As large-ocean States, our futures are closely related to the health of oceans. From sea level rise to ocean acidification, to ocean warming, the impacts of climate change on our oceans is threatening the existence of our livelihood as we know it. We are calling on States Members of the United Nations to take urgent action to reverse the trend.

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change was a historic milestone in the global effort to address climate change. However, it is well established that we will well exceed the maximum increases of 1.5°C

and 2°C for global average temperature, which we set for ourselves, and enter into truly uncharted territory. But climate change is no longer just about the future. The danger is already here in the present, with the potential to become a destabilizing force nationally and regionally. According to the UNFCCC, our first line of defence must be to ensure that developing countries have the support that they need to adapt. There have been persistent funding gaps for adaptation that trail far behind climate financing provided for mitigation. That must be remedied, with a larger share of public and grant-based financial resources for adaptation.

We also require a strong international mechanism to address loss and damage for when climate change impacts exceed the capacity of nations to adapt. We therefore urge all Member States, especially developed country partners, to fully uphold their commitments and obligations of the Paris Agreement and other international conventions and agreements relating to climate change. We also emphasize the critical role that the international community plays in providing adequate, predictable and additional financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building to developing countries, in particular small island developing States.

It is important that the United Nations system have a full understanding of how climate change threatens international peace and security and how the phenomenon drives conflicts. The Council has already recognized the adverse effects of climate change in several specific contexts — the Lake Chad basin, West Africa, the Sahel and Somalia — and has also stressed the need for improved climate-related security risk assessments for more effectively predicting potential conflicts. The Council has also commenced work on adapting peacekeeping operations to be better informed of the impact of climate change and how that can impact stability in the target countries. However, capabilities, knowledge and understanding of climate-related risks need to improve across the United Nations system. The inclusion of relevant analyses in the Secretary-General's regular reporting, risk assessments and early warnings is vital.

Were the Security Council to ignore climate-induced risks to international peace and security, that would be a mistake of historic proportions. From fires to famine, to flooding, every continent is feeling the fury of climate change, and we cannot wait until we clarify which United Nations agency is most appropriate to respond.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Trinidad and Tobago.

Ms. Beckles (Trinidad and Tobago): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 14 States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

At the outset, I align my statement with the statement delivered by the representative of Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

I wish to recognize the President of Nauru; the Prime Minister of Curaçao, Kingdom of the Netherlands; the Minister for Water Resources of Iraq; the Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan; and the Deputy Secretary-General. The Caribbean Community expresses its sincere gratitude to Sweden, the President of the Security Council for the month of July for convening this important meeting, and CARICOM thanks those who briefed us earlier today.

The Security Council often deals with the issues on a case-by-case basis, and in most cases reactively rather than pre-emptively. Conversely, there is a threat to universal peace and security that cannot go unanswered. That threat far outweighs the current structure of the Council. Under the established notion of peace and security, the current structures within it will not prove sufficient for discussion of the threats posed by climate change. For threats to our peace and security demand far greater measures than combative, military and sanctions-based ones. The appropriateness of the discussions within the Council should not go unanswered. However, the predominance of climate change should remain within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Although the threat to the peace and security of all humankind by climate change is real, there are some States, categorized as small island developing States (SIDS), that face an even greater threat — one that is imminent and requires a pre-emptive response that includes both risk assessment, planning and appropriate financing. Climate change and sea-level rise are unquestionably the most urgent threats to the environment and the sustainable development of SIDS.

Climate change, if not addressed, has the potential to compound the peace and security risks of everyone, but at a faster rate for SIDS. In 2017 the most devastating manifestation of climate change rendered parts of our sister nation Antigua and Barbuda completely

uninhabitable and rolled back decades of development in Dominica. CARICOM recognizes that climate change poses a serious threat to human societies and ecosystems, especially in the areas of extreme weather, sea-level rise, flooding, mangrove degradation, coastal agricultural soils and residential communities, and therefore needs to be addressed with urgency.

At the recent meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community, held in Jamaica from 6 to 8 July, our Heads of State adopted a declaration on climate change, in which they called for a global effort to close the mitigation ambition gap and place the world on pathways for low emissions climate resilient development. They also urged the international community to continue to support the Caribbean in its ongoing efforts to contribute to global mitigation efforts and to adapt to the effects of climate change and build the region's resilience so as to mitigate and manage the real risk of irreparable loss and damage. It is important nonetheless not to turn a blind eye to the reality that climate risks could exacerbate security threats. While the Security Council itself does not have the wherewithal to combat climate change, it is within its purview to consider all risks that will impact international peace and security.

In conclusion, CARICOM thanks you, Madam President, for this important debate, which exposes a range of views on how the Council can address climate risk in a security context, if at all. For CARICOM, it also importantly brings out a fundamental point — that we all must act in earnest to combat climate change, lest we find ourselves far beyond any international capacity to cope.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): On behalf of the Group of Arab States, I wish to congratulate you, Madam President, on your country's presidency of the Security Council this month. I also wish to note the initiative led by your country to deepen the concept and meaning of pluralism and to defend peace in its various aspects around the world. I thank today's briefers, the President of Nauru, the Minister of Water Resources of Iraq, Ms. Hindou Ibrahim and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan.

I have the honour to make this statement today on behalf of the States members of the Arab Group to clarify its position on the topic under consideration in the Security Council with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security in connection with the impact of climate change. While we recognize the primary responsibility of the Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, we also believe that it is important to not overlook the role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in that regard so as to avoid duplication and overlap in the roles of those organs — without prejudice, of course, to their complementary mandates, in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. At the same time, we stress the need to address the threat of climate change to our planet and its existence. Understanding that threat is the first step towards reaching effective and collective solutions.

Of course, armed conflict and international terrorist activities are no longer the only key threats to international peace and security in today's world — a world that is grappling with climate change and environmental degradation that exacerbate the threats to international peace and security due to their negative impact on livelihoods, human security and the ability of Governments to meet the basic needs of their citizens.

Vulnerable communities and States that have limited resources are the most susceptible to the negative impact of climate change, which amplifies their inability to appropriately address emergencies and the unexpected complexities that impact security and stability in those regions and have a direct bearing on civilian populations. Many people have been forced to migrate from their homes as a result of the consequences of climate change, such as flooding, torrential rain, desertification, drought, rising sea levels, dust storms and famine, among other negative effects that also cause migration and displacement.

The Arab region is rich and diverse in climate and environment, but it is not immune to the negative security effects of climate change, which affect all of the countries of the Arab region alike. A number of Arab countries are suffering significantly from the manifestations of climate change that have exacerbated drivers of political and armed conflicts, with obvious effects on international and regional peace and security. Those include heat waves, rising sea levels, drought and desertification, which have diminished arable and pasture lands, and have also contributed to the disappearance of agricultural lands due to water

shortages, leading to land salinity and affecting crop productivity. Those negative developments have had security and social consequences that have given rise to conflicts between different populations, such as herders and farmers, and led to strained relations between groups and communities, and in some cases to armed conflict resulting in displacement and migration.

We draw the attention of the Council to the potential present and future negative consequences of severe climate change on the Arab region, including its socioeconomic effects. In that regard, the Arab Group cites the success of the international community, through complex negotiations, in defining international frameworks that identify the responsibilities and obligations of States, while taking into account the historical responsibility of developed and industrial States for the current negative impact of climate change. A recent case in point is the fact that the international community has concluded the Paris Agreement on Climate Change — a road map in support of international cooperation against climate change via the leading role of developed countries in supporting implementation through financing, technology transfer and building the capacities of developing States in order to support their national efforts and to contribute to international efforts to address climate change, promote national programmes and mitigate negative effects.

In that respect, it is important to point out that the multilateral international framework has managed to set up international mechanisms to provide funding for developing countries, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund. One of the most serious challenges facing the Arab region with regard to the effects of climate change on security and peace is the poor cooperation and coordination at the regional and international levels in addressing the problems of climate change and environmental degradation, as well as their impact on Arab security and peace. All parties must mobilize their efforts to reach a positive outcome and to prevent conflicts. The imbalance in the exploitation of natural resources, combined with the inability to manage environmental programmes is a driver of conflicts and is responsible for the deterioration of humanitarian situations causing migration and displacement. Of course, this calls for the enhanced cooperation and support of developed States for regional and national Arab efforts, in particular with respect to technology transfer and capacity-building. Developed States must work in parallel with many initiatives to promote Arab synergies and coordination.

Another case in point is reaching a consensus on a number of recommendations that were concluded at the ninth Arab Forum for Development and Environment, held in Beirut in 2016 under the theme "Sustainable development in a changing Arab climate". There, Arab Governments agreed to shift towards a green economy and to integrate the principles of sustainable development into their conflict resolution and peace initiatives, alongside plans for the reconstruction of Arab countries emerging from conflict in a manner that would help them to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.8308

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 July 2018

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 8308th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 12 July 2018, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 12 July 2018, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 8308th meeting in private with the troop- and police contributing countries to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

"The President invited Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"The Security Council and the troop- and police-contributing countries heard a briefing by Ms. Spehar.

"Members of the Council, Ms. Spehar and representatives of participating contributing countries had an exchange of views."

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United Nations S/PV.8309

Security Council

Seventy-third year

Provisional

8309th meeting
Friday, 13 July 2018, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Skoog	(Sweden)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Solíz
	China	Mr. Ma Zhaoxu
	Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Adom
	Equatorial Guinea	Mr. Ndong Mba
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Kuwait	Mr. Alotaibi
	Netherlands	Mr. Van Oosterom
	Peru	Mr. Meza-Cuadra
	Poland	Mr. Lewicki
	Russian Federation	Mr. Polyanskiy
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mrs. Haley

Agenda

The situation in the Central African Republic

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

18-22193 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Expression of welcome to the new Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire

The President: I should at the outset like to extend, on behalf of the Council, a warm welcome to the new Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Kacou Houadja Léon Adom. We very much look forward to working with him, and we wish him every success.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Central African Republic

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

After consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

(*spoke in French*)

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern regarding persistent violence perpetrated by armed groups, in Bangui and in the rest of the country, against civilians, United Nations peacekeepers and humanitarian workers, as well as violations of international humanitarian law, abuses and violations of human rights, including those committed against children and those involving sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, resulting in an unacceptable number of deaths, injury and displacement. The Security Council also strongly condemns the rise of incitement to ethnic and religious hatred and violence that threaten the peace and stability of the Central African Republic, as well as manipulated hostility towards the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and other international actors.

"The Security Council urges armed groups, in Bangui and in the rest of the country, to cease all forms of violence, destabilizing activities and restrictions on freedom of movement of people, lay down their arms, immediately and unconditionally, and engage constructively in the peace process. The Security Council reiterates the urgent and imperative need to hold accountable those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights. The Security Council also recalls that committing acts of incitement to violence, in particular on an ethnic or religious basis, and then engaging in or providing support for acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the Central African Republic is a basis for sanctions designations pursuant to resolution 2399 (2018).

"The Security Council reiterates its support to President Faustin-Archange Touadera in his efforts to promote lasting peace and stability in the Central African Republic and calls on the Central African authorities to take all the necessary steps, without delay, to advance the dialogue with armed groups and promote national reconciliation, the extension of State authority, the reform of the security sector, and the fight against impunity, as the highest priorities. The Security Council further stresses the need for the definitive operationalization of the Special Criminal Court and the establishment of the Truth, Justice, Reparations and Reconciliation Commission, as well as to bolster the other national accountability mechanisms. The Security Council calls on the Central African authorities to implement the reform of the security sector in order to put in place multi-ethnic, professional, representative and well-equipped national defense and internal security forces, the disarmament, demobilization and repatriation of members of armed groups, as well as the acceleration of the implementation of the National Strategy for Recovery and Peace Consolidation.

"The Security Council reaffirms its support to the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic and its road map that was adopted in Libreville on 17 July 2017, which both constitute the main framework for a political solution in the Central African Republic, as agreed by the Central African authorities and under their leadership. The Security Council welcomes the conclusion of the second round of consultations by the Panel of Facilitators of the African Initiative and underscores the urgent need for further progress in an ambitious and inclusive dialogue between the Central African authorities and the armed groups, as well as all segments of society, promoting the full and effective participation of women, with continued support

from MINUSCA and other partners, in order to reach a comprehensive political agreement without delay. The Security Council also encourages President Faustin-Archange Touadera to cement and broaden national ownership of the peace process and calls for an enhanced coordination of efforts to support the African Initiative.

"The Security Council emphasizes the importance of the role and of high-level commitment of the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and neighbouring countries for the promotion of lasting peace and stability in the Central African Republic and calls on them in this regard to step up their coordination and efforts for the next steps of the implementation of the Libreville road map.

"The Security Council welcomes the first meeting of the International Support Group to the Central African Republic, co-chaired by the African Union, ECCAS and the United Nations, which took place in Bangui on 11 April 2018, to promote coherent and sustained engagement for the ongoing stabilization and recovery efforts in the Central African Republic. The Security Council welcomes in this regard the call to reactivate joint bilateral commissions between Cameroon, Chad and the Sudan with the Central African Republic and encourages the concerned countries to cooperate in order to address cross-border issues. The Security Council also welcomes the joint visit in Bangui of Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, and African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Smaïl Chergui, from 10 to 13 April 2018 and underlines the importance of the synergy between the two organizations to support the peace process in the Central African Republic.

"The Security Council renews its strong support to Special Representative Parfait Onanga-Anyanga and MINUSCA in the implementation of the mandate of the mission in support of the Central African authorities, in particular the protection of civilians, including through a proactive and robust posture, support to the peace process, and the creation of a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance in accordance with resolution 2387 (2017).

"The Security Council pays tribute to the bravery of United Nations peacekeepers who sacrificed their lives in the service of peace and welcomes in this regard the extradition by the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the Central African Republic of anti-Balaka commander Wekanam Crépin and associated people suspected of involvement in an attack that led to the death of five United Nations peacekeepers and in attacks against civilians. The Security Council welcomes the efforts undertaken to improve the safety and security of United Nations personnel. The Security Council also encourages the efforts undertaken to continue optimizing MINUSCA's performance and looks forward to the reporting on troop- and police-contributing country performance. The Security Council also welcomes current efforts by the Secretariat to generate the additional authorized forces without delay to increase MINUSCA's flexibility and mobility pursuant to operative paragraph 32 of resolution 2387 (2017).

"The Security Council notes the various measures taken by MINUSCA and troop- and police-contributing countries to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, which has led to a reduction in reported cases, but still expresses grave concern over numerous allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse reportedly committed by peacekeepers in the CAR, as well as by non-United Nations forces, and reiterates the need for troop- and police-contributing countries, and as appropriate, MINUSCA, to promptly investigate those allegations in a credible and transparent manner and for those responsible for such criminal offences and misconduct to be held to account, and further stresses the need to prevent such sexual exploitation and abuse and to improve how these allegations are addressed in line with resolution 2272 (2016).

"The Security Council welcomes the work carried out by the European Union Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic (EUTM-RCA), as well as the support of other international and regional partners to the training and the enhancement of capacities of the national security and defence forces, and encourages effective coordination with MINUSCA and EUTM-RCA in this regard. The Security Council welcomes the ongoing good collaboration between the Central African authorities and international

partners, including MINUSCA and EUTM-RCA, for the progressive and sustainable redeployment of the Central African armed forces and internal security forces trained by EUTM-RCA and other international partners, within the broader framework of the extension of the State authority and security, and underlines the importance of capacity-building actions in support of internal security forces. The Security Council expresses in this regard its intent to review the recommendations that the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council, as requested in operative paragraph 43 (a) (iv) of resolution 2387 (2017).

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern for the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic, including the alarming situation of refugees and internally displaced persons, where nearly half of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance. The Security Council reiterates its demand that all parties allow and facilitate the full, safe, immediate and unhindered access for the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need. The Security Council encourages Member States to scale up funding to urgently respond to the humanitarian needs in the country identified in the 2018 humanitarian responseplan.

"The Security Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Central African Republic, and recalls the importance of the principles of non-interference, good-neighbourliness and regional cooperation."

(*spoke in English*)

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2018/14.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.8310

Security Council

Seventy-third year

Provisional

8310th meeting

Friday, 13 July 2018, 10.20 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Skoog	(Sweden)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Soliz
	China	Mr. Ma Zhaoxu
	Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Adom
	Equatorial Guinea	Mr. Ndong Mba
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Tumysh
	Kuwait	Mr. Alotaibi
	Netherlands	Mr. Van Oosterom
	Peru	Mr. Meza-Cuadra
	Poland	Mr. Lewicki
	Russian Federation	Mr. Polyanskiy
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mrs. Haley

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

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18-22199 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of South Sudan to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2018/691, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it.

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the vote.

Mrs. Haley (United States of America): First, I would like to thank our new colleague from Côte d'Ivoire. We are very excited to have Ambassador Adom with us and look forward to working with him. We welcome him.

I take the floor before the vote because we have reached a critical moment. The people of South Sudan have endured unimaginable suffering and unspeakable atrocities. Their leaders have failed them. They are desperate to get the most basic food, medicine and shelter, but above all, they just want the violence to stop. Anyone who has been to South Sudan knows that. The stories of the victims haunt us. One 14-year-old girl from Leer county in South Sudan recently put it like this:

> "All the violence I have witnessed is something I can never forget. How can I forget the sight of an old man whose throat was slit with a knife before being set on fire? How can I forget the smell of those decomposed bodies of old men and children pecked and eaten by birds? How can I forget those women who were hanged and died up in the tree?"

This girl is 14-years-old. She will never forget the atrocities she witnessed, and neither can we.

We can do more than just sit here and listen to these horror stories. We can do more than just express our sympathy with empty words. We can take action.

Today, the United States has introduced a draft resolution (S/2018/691) that would impose an arms embargo and new sanctions against some of the people responsible for the violence. The goal of the draft resolution is simple. If we are going to help the people of South Sudan, we need the violence to stop, and to stop the violence we need to stop the flow of weapons that armed groups are using to fight each other and terrorize the people. We must stop the weapons and stop the violence. This is a draft resolution that everyone on the Security Council should support.

Sadly, the idea of an arms embargo for South Sudan is not a new one. In 2016, the United States proposed it. We certainly should have imposed the embargo at that time and probably a lot earlier, but the proposal failed. We can only imagine how many weapons have made their way to parties in South Sudan since then and how many more people have had to die. These are the weapons that armed groups use to shoot fathers in front of their wives and children, to hold up convoys of food aid or to assault women and girls. The Security Council had an opportunity to help put a stop to this, but we failed. We carry that burden with us.

The United States is determined that we will not turn our backs on people of South Sudan again. We have tried everything to achieve a real ceasefire in South Sudan. We have given the parties many chances to change their behaviour, and it is impossible to keep track. We have waited and waited for negotiations to make a difference. Time passes but the fighting in South Sudan never stops.

The United Nations recently came out with a report that looked at the violence in just one state of South Sudan in the brief period from 16 April to 24 May of this year. Over those six weeks, the United Nations found that armed forces had attacked 40 villages; 120 women and girls were raped or gang-raped; 232 civilians were killed, including 35 children; 25 people were killed by hanging; 63 children, elderly persons and people with disabilities were burned alive. Armed groups in South Sudan are literally burning people alive and hanging them from trees. This is barbaric, and again all of this violence happened over a period of just six weeks in one state.

The irony in this context is that all of this fighting took place after the parties signed the cessation of hostilities agreement in December. Every few months, it seems, we see announcements that the parties have agreed to a new ceasefire. Sometimes they even call these ceasefires "permanent". These ceasefires have never held. The only certainty about a ceasefire in South Sudan is that the parties will violate them in a few hours.

So the issue before us today is quite simple. Why would we possibly want to give the people responsible for this madness more weapons? Why would we give the parties more opportunities to attack the people of South Sudan? How do we explain to the people of South Sudan that we are willing to let their tormentors get new weapons? More arms for South Sudan cannot be the answer.

We have heard the argument that an arms embargo might undermine the peace process. To be clear, the United States supports the peace process in South Sudan. We want nothing more than to see this dialogue work out. The arms embargo is a measure to protect civilians and help stop the violence. For negotiations to work, we must end the cycle of broken promises to stick to the ceasefire. Peace in South Sudan will not come by letting the parties get their hands on more weapons. The opposite is true. Supporting an arms embargo will show the parties that we are fed up with the delays and the stalling. It will show our resolve to make life better for the people of South Sudan.

For too long, the Security Council has failed these people. We failed to impose an arms embargo years ago when we could have helped prevent so much suffering. We have failed to stop the fighting. We have failed to hold South Sudan's leaders accountable for the misery they have caused. But today we can and we must defy this history. We can come together to show South Sudan that the era of impunity is over. We can show the world that the Security Council will live up to its responsibility to help maintain international peace and security. Above all, we can send a small signal of hope to the people of South Sudan. By adopting the draft resolution, we can stand in solidarity with them and at long last show that we are able to help.

The United States urges all members of the Security Council to do what is right for the people of South Sudan. We urge them to vote in favour of this draft resolution.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): I want to more formally welcome my brother the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

We are at a very critical juncture in the peace process in South Sudan. The High-Level Revitalization Forum has made notable progress and for the first time in a long while there is some hope for a possible breakthrough. The parties have already reached an agreement on security arrangements and the reports from Khartoum are indicating that they are closer than they have ever been to reaching an agreement on governance issues.

The decision we are going to make today in connection with sanctions would have very serious implications for the peace process. That is why the region and, I might add, the continent are asking for the situation to be handled with prudence and patience. Why? It should be handled with prudence and patience because without them whatever human rights violations there are today, they could be even worse. Averting the worst is our objective.

For the Security Council to take such action without synchronizing its position with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union (AU) will not only be unhelpful, but it will seriously undermine the peace process and does not reflect well on the cooperation and partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations, which all of us strive to see strengthened.

While in no way opposed to punitive measures, it is the view of the AU and IGAD that now is not the appropriate time for taking such measures. The IGAD Council of Ministers has made it clear that pursuing such a course of action at this stage would not behelpful at all. That is a matter of judgement, taking into account the complexities of the situation. The same view is also reflected by the AU Peace and Security Council. Lending deaf ears to the opinion of the two organizations that have invested so much in the peace process and would be the most affected by its failure runs roughshod over the principles that underpin the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. The cause of peace and the protection of civilians, which we so much want to see advanced, would have less chance of succeeding if, in the light of the position being taken by IGAD and the AU, the Security Council ended up being an outlier and in sharp disagreement with the two regional organizations. That

is why we call upon each member of the Council to heed the calls of the region and cast their vote in a manner that would enhance the unity of purpose among the three organizations. After all, it is that unity of purpose which will break or make the peace process.

Resorting to immediate sanctions at this point in time would amount to not taking into account the progress that has been made so far. Under those circumstances, it would not be surprising if, were draft resolution S/2018/691 to be adopted, it ended up confusing the parties for they would find it difficult to reconcile the action of the Council with the reality of the peace process. The parties would be absolutely justified in expecting encouragement from the Council for the progress made no matter how far they might still have to go to achieve a breakthrough. But what they might see is the opposite in what, for them and for those who follow the South Sudanese peace process closely, is a paradox. One does not get punished for having made progress.

We have heard the argument being made that nothing has changed in the peace process, in that the parties are simply going through the motions, but what we have seen lately is quite different. The Council should indeed be appreciative of what the Presidents of Uganda and the Sudan did in engaging in a well-calibrated joint effort to nudge the parties towards peace, which culminated in a possible scenario whereby President Salva Kiir and Mr. Machar might be in the Government together — the former returning to his position and the latter as the First Vice President. If that is not progress, then what is? That is why we find it difficult to vote in favour of the draft resolution before us (S/2018/691) and why, in our view, other Council members should not as well. That is the advice both IGAD and the AU are giving to the Council.

We wish to thank in advance all Council members who are respectful of the views of regional organizations and act accordingly. There should be no confusion. There is a solution that does not reflect the spirit and principle that should underpin the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. What is equally troubling is that this proposed course of action does not meet the consensus of Council members. A divided Council in this issue, we all know, will not be helpful to the peace process because it will send the wrong message to the parties, the result of which will be a loss of the Council's credibility and therefore its leverage. That is what we have been trying to avoid, but to no avail.

Before concluding, I must express appreciation to our colleagues, representatives of the three African States members of the Council, for all the efforts we made together to support the position of the AU on this critical matter.

Mr. Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Republic of Equatorial Guinea fears that today is a sad day for the relationship between the Organization and the African continent. The text that has been proposed and draft resolution S/2018/691, which will be voted on, is a step backwards in the many efforts that are being made on both sides to build a sound relationship based on mutual trust and on the pursuit of common goals.

Our position is well known. The Council's imposition of sanctions at this time would involve not just a counterproductive interference in the undeniable positive progress that has been made on the ground, but also reflect a clear lack of consideration for the States and regional organizations involved. We deeply regret that our colleagues in the Council have decided to take that course of action. Equatorial Guinea believes that the message that should go out from this Chamber is one of recognition, support and encouragement for the efforts that both the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union, in particular President Al-Bashir of the Sudan and President Museveni of Uganda, have been making and which, in recent weeks, have produced tangible results.

Clearly, one cannot expect the signed agreements to change the situation radically overnight. That would be naive, and I do not believe that anyone sitting in this Chamber is naive. It takes time for the compromises reached to take effect and all the more so in a conflict like this one, in South Sudan, that involves many actors and different situations. Time — that is what we have been asking for — a little more time. A prudent time frame is required to evaluate and monitor the implementation and viability of those agreements and, where necessary, to take appropriate action against those who breach them or obstruct peace. Meanwhile, none of us has the moral authority or legitimacy to rule out such efforts a priori.

We all agree that the parties must be pressured to establish a secure and lasting peace in South Sudan,

but we urge that such pressure be exerted, as it is now, by regional actors, with the support and faith of the Council, and without any lack of consideration or the disregard that is being shown. However, like every other member of the Council, we wish the best for the young people of South Sudan who have already suffered more than enough. Similarly, we express our support for the country's leaders so that they can rise to the occasion and take advantage of this new opportunity to achieve peace. For that reason, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea will abstain in the voting on draft resolution S/2018/691 so as provide the political actors and institutions of the region with the opportunity to consolidate their efforts under way to achieve definitive peace in South Sudan.

The President: I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:
Côte d'Ivoire, France, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America

Against:
None

Abstaining:
Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation

The President: The draft resolution received 9 votes in favour and 6 abstentions. The draft resolution has been adopted as resolution 2428 (2018).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): France welcomes adoption of resolution 2428 (2018), which renews the sanctions regime on South Sudan for one year. France nevertheless listened attentively to our colleagues from Ethiopia and Equatorial Guinea, and shares their desire for the Security Council to remain united in supporting the political process and initiatives led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and African Union.

The resolution is not intended to undermine negotiations conducted by IGAD. Its goal is to protect civilian populations. It enables the establishment of an arms embargo that France has been urgently calling for several years. By limiting the flow of weapons towards South Sudan, the arms embargo is one of the most important measures that the Council can adopt to protect South Sudanese civilians. Furthermore, by adopting individual sanctions against two important military leaders from both sides, the Security Council is sending the clear message that impunity for acts of violence against civilians and violations of the most basic human rights and international humanitarian law can no longer be tolerated. Those who seek to prolong the conflict in contempt of their our own fellow citizens must be made aware that they will suffer the consequences of their actions.

The situation in South Sudan will improve in concrete terms only when the conflict is ended. France is encouraged by recent progress in the political process. France welcomes the commitment of IGAD and calls on the South Sudanese parties to finalize an agreement as soon as possible so that weapons are laid down once and for all and that the South Sudanese people can finally return to living their lives in the peace to which they aspire. Members may rest assured of France's determined commitment to that end.

Lastly, let me conclude by welcoming our new colleague from Côte d'Ivoire, His Excellency Mr. Kacou Houadja Léon Adom. It gives me great pleasure to welcome him here. Let me take this opportunity to commend the outstanding work of His Excellency Mr. Djédjé, who successfully carried out his interim duties following the passing of Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoue, who is sadly missed but whose memory is very much alive for us all and will remain a source of inspiration for the Council and myself — and whom I will never forget.

Mr. Lewicki (Poland): Poland voted in favour of resolution 2428 (2018), and we regret that we were unable to reach a consensus on that important text. We supported the resolution because we are appalled by the continuing violence in South Sudan, and we believe that it is the Security Council's responsibility to introduce adequate measures within its capacity with a view to scaling down and preventing the ongoing human tragedy in South Sudan.

Poland appreciates the regional efforts of African leaders and their leadership of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in elaborating a viable political solution to the conflict and ending civil war in South Sudan. We see the measures adopted today by the

security Council as an important means to advance the peace process. We believe that stopping the uncontrolled flow of arms to the territory of South Sudan will result in a decrease in the number of clashes on the ground and violations of the ceasefire, but more important, it will significantly reduce violence and brutality against civilians. It is the resolution's key objective to protect civilians. In its previous resolutions, the Council has made it clear that the fighting in South Sudan must stop and that there will be consequences for those who violate the ceasefire and obstruct the peace process. We welcome the fact that today the Security Council decided to put its words into actions.

Lastly, let me extend my delegation's very warm welcome to the new Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, and we look forward to working with him and with his excellent team very closely.

Mr. Van Oosterom (Netherlands): I too would like to welcome our new colleague from Côte d'Ivoire, and we look forward to working with him very closely.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the adoption of resolution 2428 (2018), especially the measures contained therein. The Netherlands has repeatedly called in the Council for the imposition of an arms embargo. That imposition underscores the fact that there is no military solution to the conflict. We especially welcome the sanctions imposed against two individuals. Their responsibility for gross human rights violations has been well documented. Today the Security Council is sending a clear message that the international community no longer tolerates the gross human rights violations in South Sudan, while underscoring the need to achieve tangible results in the ongoing political negotiations.

The Security Council will continue to monitor the situation in South Sudan and stands ready to act further if necessary. We very much welcome the insertion of specific designation criteria for sexual violence in resolution 2428 (2018). Through that extra set of references the Security Council acknowledges the systematic, structural and widespread nature of sexual violence in South Sudan. The reports on South Sudan bear witness to the horrific nature of those crimes time and time again, and if anyone can stomach it, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights report of earlier this week is a clear indication of that. Today the Council is sending a signal that this violence has to stop. The impunity must end.

Finally, we welcome the strength of the reference in the resolution to the link between conflict and hunger. It is a particular point of concern for the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and it is pertinent to the situation in South Sudan. We thank the penholder for her initiative, and the Council has given a very clear signal. It is now high time for the parties involved to achieve a sustained, peaceful political solution.

Mr. Ma Zhaoxu (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): First of all, I would like to welcome the new Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, His Excellency Ambassador Adom, to the Council in his new capacity. I look forward to our fruitful cooperation in the Council.

The South Sudan political process is currently at a crucial stage. With the mediation efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union (AU), Ethiopia, the Sudan, Uganda and other regional organizations and countries, the South Sudan political process has recently made positive and recognized progress, clearly demonstrating that all the parties in South Sudan have the will to pursue peace and resolve issues through political channels.

In today's context, the Security Council must play its constructive role to the full and continue to lend all possible support to the mediation efforts of IGAD, the AU and the countries of the region. While they are working hard, we must continue to maintain our confidence and patience so as to help to facilitate the political process in South Sudan.

China has always maintained that sanctions should serve only as a means, not an end in themselves. Any measures taken by the Council should be conducive to ensuring the political settlement of relevant issues, not the reverse. The AU and IGAD have indicated on several recent occasions that it is neither advisable nor helpful to impose additional sanctions on South Sudan. The Security Council must listen to the legitimate aspirations of regional organizations and countries in Africa and take a cautious stance when it comes to imposing sanctions.

We have noted the fact that the penholders made certain improvements to resolution 2428 (2018) at the joint request of China and some other Council members. Now, however, the resolution still insists on imposing sanctions on South Sudan, including an arms embargo, that could complicate the situation and work against the advancement of the peace process. China abstained in the voting on the resolution for these reasons.

I would like to reiterate that the Chinese Government has consistently supported the peace process in South Sudan and has provided support to the country's efforts to restore national stability and development. Together with the rest of the international community, China stands ready to fully support the efforts to pursue peace being made by South Sudan, regional organizations and other countries of the region, and to make a constructive contribution to achieving lasting peace and stability in South Sudan and the African continent.

Mr. Llorentty Solíz (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to join my colleagues in welcoming the new Ambassador of Côte d'Ivoire and assuring him of our full support in his endeavours.

Bolivia regrets that the Security Council has not been able to maintain unity on this issue just when South Sudan needs it most. The gravity of the situation in the country is clear, and we deeply regret the suffering of the South Sudanese people.

Our decision to abstain in the voting on resolution 2428 (2018) is based on various elements that have gone unheeded regarding the imposition of an arms embargo and sanctions on the persons identified in annex 1 to the resolution. Bolivia believes that the only way to achieve stable and lasting peace in South Sudan is through a serious, inclusive and carefully constructed political process between the parties to the conflict and above all with the support of the region. That is exactly what the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union have been developing over the past year and that could be seriously compromised by today's decision.

We regret that the express request of IGAD, the African Union, Uganda, the Sudan and Ethiopia that punitive action not be taken at this stage of the negotiations was not heeded, considering that positive progress has been made in recent weeks in the dialogue between the country's top leaders, who had not met in person for more than two years. The region has also set aside divisions that seemed irreconcilable in order to provide unanimous support to South Sudan. We believe that the best decision would have been to support the region until the conclusion of the ongoing talks, particularly since they are at a crucial stage, and to consider appropriate measures against those not demonstrating the necessary willingness to commit only if the parties failed to reach a genuine commitment. We must not underestimate the capacity of the region to resolve its conflicts, since they more than anyone want to achieve peace and stability. Unfortunately, we once again find ourselves making decisions over the recommendations of the region. We insist that such measures should be agreed on in principle with the relevant regional organizations.

In conclusion, I would like to commend the tireless work of the members of IGAD, the African Union and especially Uganda, the Sudan and Ethiopia, which have been essential stakeholders in mediating the reconciliation and agreement processes in their region, and with whom we are grateful to work on a daily basis in the Council. We are witnesses to their efforts and commitment to peace, and we reiterate our unconditional support for the work they are doing for their region.

Mr. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian delegation abstained in the voting on resolution 2428 (2018), on extending the sanctions on South Sudan. We are not trying to whitewash the situation in the country. We know that various parties continue to violate the ceasefire regime there and that the humanitarian situation is still serious. However, it is also clear that there has been some positive movement in the settlement process. Besides the meetings that have already taken place between the South Sudanese leaders Salva Kiir Mayardit and Riek Machar, it includes the signing on 27 June of the Khartoum Declaration and the plans made for holding the long-awaited negotiations in Nairobi in the very near future. In less than a month, thanks entirely to the efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the format set up for contact between South Sudan's politicians has been transformed into a full-on negotiation platform before our eyes. We agree with our Ethiopian colleague when he said, "If that is not progress, then what is?" Can those who genuinely care about seeing peace come to this long-suffering country really believe otherwise?

In the circumstances, it would make sense to support the approach of the African Union — the importance of strengthening our partnership with which we will be discussing in the Security Council next week — as well as to express our solidarity with the mediation efforts of IGAD, whose members, as we know, have declared unequivocally that expanding the sanctions pressure on South Sudan is highly inopportune. We regret that today our Council has taken this disappointing approach. Instead of listening to the regional position,

our colleagues mindlessly brandished the sanctions stick. We believe firmly that imposing sanctions on active participants in the political process or members of the Government is counterproductive. Nor will an arms embargo have a positive effect on the political settlement process. To hear our American colleagues, one might conclude that the embargo is a panacea for almost all ills.

We all know perfectly well that South Sudan is indeed flooded with weapons, but attempts to restrict the supply should not be directed only at Government forces. The experience of the neighbouring countries in the region shows that it is not embargoes that bring about an end to armed violence but systematic efforts to reform security structures, the implementation of weapons-collection programmes from the people, and the disarming and demobilizing of combatants.

Lastly, I should not omit to say that we have increasing questions about the working methods of the penholders, thanks to whose efforts the deep split in the Council over the South Sudan dossier continues. Such actions can hardly contribute to strengthening the authority of the Council or of the United Nations generally, a subject that those who supported today's resolution claim to care so much about. As we can see, their actions prove the opposite. As for Russia, we did not support and will not support a policy of imposing decisions on independent countries and regions that suit forces outside the region for domestic political or other reasons. It is to be hoped that despite today's destructive step, the fragile process of establishing a constructive dialogue between the parties in South Sudan will not be undermined, and that IGAD's mediation efforts will continue.

Mr. Tumysh (Kazakhstan): My delegation abstained in the voting on resolution 2428 (2018) because it does not reflect the positions and concerns of the countries of the region and the relevant regional organizations, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union, with regard to the timing of these actions. We want to point out that on 30 June the IGAD Council of Ministers decided that it was not helpful to pursue punitive measures at this stage. We highly commend the concerted efforts of the United Nations, the African Union and IGAD, as well as the mediation efforts of the countries of the region that helped to secure the Khartoum Declaration.

My delegation believes that despite today's adoption of resolution 2428 (2018), it is critically important to ensure that the Council remains united in its support for the efforts of IGAD and the African Union to achieve peace and stability in South Sudan. We must all stand up for a greater role for regional organizations in the Security Council's work and support them in their efforts to achieve progress.

We also urge the Government and opposition in South Sudan to work proactively and genuinely to implement the agreement and continue their inclusive and constructive peace talks to resolve the outstanding issues relating to governance and security arrangements. As an observer member of the African Union, we want to express our solidarity with the position expressed by the representatives of Ethiopia and Equatorial Guinea.

Lastly, we would also like to welcome the new Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire and to cordially wish him every success in all his endeavours.

Mr. Alotaibi (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would first like to join speakers before me in welcoming the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire and wishing him every success in his work.

At the outset, we thank all the delegations of Member States for their flexibility during the conduct of the negotiations on resolution 2428 (2018), and we thank the United States delegation for cooperating in the negotiations on the draft text. We also welcome the important and positive developments and the efforts made by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to achieve a comprehensive political settlement. In that regard, we want to stress our full support for those efforts, while we also share the serious concern of other member States about the continuing conflict in South Sudan and its disastrous consequences for the civilian population and for peace and stability in the region.

The twenty-first report of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism has confirmed the existence of continuing severe violations of the ceasefire that are worrying for all of us. But we believe in the importance and necessity of the mediation efforts of IGAD and the African Union countries, which should continue with the support of the international community and the Security Council. African crises first and foremost demand African solutions if they are to achieve permanent settlements. I believe that the technical extension in resolution

2418 (2018), the previous one on this topic, represents an opportunity to give the negotiations more time for achieving progress, while highlighting the tools that the Charter of the United Nations provides to the Security Council. The annex to today's resolution accords with the role of those who have been positively involved in the political process. We hope that today's resolution represents an opportunity that can enable the various parties in South Sudan to pursue their talks in order to achieve a comprehensive, just and appropriate settlement that puts an end to the conflict and stops the flow of more arms into the country so as to preserve people's lives, support peace and save South Sudan from the destructive cycle of war.

Ms. Pierce (United Kingdom): I would like to join my colleagues in welcoming our new colleague from Côte d'Ivoire. We look forward to working with him and would like to thank Ambassador Alcide Djédjé for his excellent cooperation in the interim.

We voted in favour of resolution 2428 (2018), but listening to some of the explanations of vote around the Chamber today, an outside observer could have been forgiven for thinking that the resolution was about the peace process. It is not. It is a resolution designed to protect the people of South Sudan. It imposes a long-needed arms embargo that will limit the flow of weapons that fuel the conflict in South Sudan, as well as further targeted sanctions on two individuals whose acts have expanded and extended the conflict and caused immeasurable suffering to the people of South Sudan. Both targets are military officials, and there is decisive evidence of responsibility on their part for human rights abuses. It would be a very sad commentary on the prospects for peace if those two measures designed to help the people of South Sudan were allowed to get in the way of and complicate the peace process. One cannot and does not advance peace by ignoring atrocities, and in my experience, if people are looking for a reason to abandon a peace process, they will find one, regardless of whether the Council takes action to protect the people of that country or not.

I would like to make it very clear that we expect the peace process to continue. We support the efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union and other regional organizations to that end, and we urge all leaders in South Sudan to work with them to advance the peace process.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Sweden.

For millions of people in South Sudan, the long wait for their leaders to put an end to the fighting is not over. Despite the commendable efforts of the region to broker an agreement, the parties have not yet made the necessary compromises, and the fighting continues. Indeed, the ongoing efforts to unilaterally extend the mandates of Salva Kiir and the transitional Parliament raises questions as to whether participation in the negotiations is taking place in good faith.

The Secretary-General, in his report (S/2018/609) following resolution 2418 (2018), has confirmed that the fighting has not ceased. In addition, the recent joint report by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as reports from the Panel of Experts on South Sudan, contain harrowing accounts of violence against civilians, including widespread sexual and gender-based violence. The situation for women and girls is extremely difficult. This must come to an end.

Along with other Council members, we share a deep sense of frustration. The Council has stated its determination to ensure that the parties abide by their commitments, obligations and responsibilities. As the violence and mass atrocities continue, in flagrant disregard of international law and in violation of agreed ceasefires, the international community cannot stand idly by.

It is clear that the last thing needed in South Sudan at this moment is more weapons. Indeed, in the light of the commitments to a ceasefire made in Khartoum, which we welcome, the parties should have no need for them. Instead, all efforts and resources should be urgently directed at responding to the dire humanitarian situation. Doing so would help alleviate the suffering of the 7 million South Sudanese in need of humanitarian assistance. Unhindered humanitarian access must be ensured.

As the Emergency Relief Coordinator said in May,

> "Ending violence is the first and single most important thing needed to alleviate human suffering".

Additional weapons should not be able to reach parties that seem set on prolonging the conflict. We therefore support the imposition of a United Nations arms embargo on South Sudan, and it is for this reason

that we voted in favour of resolution 2428 (2018), adopted today.

A regionally brokered and inclusive political solution remains the only viable means of achieving peace. We commend the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the wider region for their efforts towards such a political solution. This process must continue with vigour, and the Council must carefully consider how to best support the regional effort in order to also make a real difference on the ground, including by striking the right balance between encouragement and credible pressure. But most importantly, genuine goodwill and compromise must be shown by the countries' leaders, putting the interests of the people first.

The Council should stand ready to consider further targeted measures against individuals who incite violence or seek to derail the peace process. At the same time, we should also be ready to respond to positive developments.

To give the peace effort the best possible prospects for success, it is imperative that, as we move forward now, we stand unified and speak with one voice to the parties.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of South Sudan.

Mr. Malwal (South Sudan): Mr. President, let me at the outset congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month.

I would like to thank the members of the Council that abstained in the voting on resolution 2428 (2018), which included the representatives of Ethiopia and of Equatorial Guinea. They are arguing that the resolution is not helpful and will undermine peace. How does it undermine peace? It is not the resolution itself, but the adoption of a resolution at a time when the peace process is making positive advances will actually now tilt that balance for those parties that are negotiating. The opposition will think that the Security Council is on their side, so why should they continue to negotiate peace? That is why this resolution is unfortunate.

But my delegation really considers this resolution as an issue not between the Security Council and South Sudan, but between the Council, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union and the continent. We keep hearing in the Council from time to time about a slap in the face. If there is a slap in the face, I think that this resolution is a slap in the face of those organizations that are trying to bring peace to South Sudan and Khartoum even as we speak.

We would like to commend IGAD and the African Union, and in particular President Omer Al-Bashir, President Yoweri Museveni and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Mr. Abiy Ahmed, for actually switching and coming up with a different approach that appears to be succeeding in bringing peace to South Sudan. The resolution, as we have said, will not help, but IGAD and South Sudan are still committed. We will seek peace within the region, within IGAD and within the African Union, and we hope that in the next few days there will be more positive news in that regard.

Again, I would like to thank those members that abstained, and we look forward to better news coming from Khartoum and South Sudan in the near future.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.8311

Security Council

Seventy-third year

Provisional

8311th meeting
Friday, 13 July 2018, 11.20 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Skoog	(Sweden)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
	China	Mr. Yao Shaojun
	Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Adom
	Equatorial Guinea	Mr. Ndong Mba
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Tumysh
	Kuwait	Mr. Alotaibi
	Netherlands	Mr. Van Oosterom
	Peru	Mr. Meza-Cuadra
	Poland	Mr. Lewicki
	Russian Federation	Mr. Polyanskiy
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mrs. Haley

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

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18-22205 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2018/693, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States ofAmerica

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2429 (2018).

I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to express the thanks and appreciation of the Government of the Sudan to Council members for being so understanding and willing to adopt by consensus resolution 2429 (2018) on the extension of the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). We have been communicating with all Council members since the draft resolution was submitted by the United Kingdom. I would like once again to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for the recommendations made in their joint report on the future of UNAMID (S/2018/530), in accordance with the request of the Security Council.

The reality on the ground in the five states of Darfur during the recent period is undeniable and unforgettable. In all our statements and letters to the Security Council and the Secretary-General, we have recalled that Darfur has enjoyed security and stability, in particular since 2015, and that the humanitarian situation has become completely stable. In our assessment of the security, humanitarian and political situations in Darfur, we are relying not on only one or two documents, but entirely on the reality on the ground, as recognized by the Council through many reports, visits, presidential statements and other testimonies.

The Government of the Sudan and all its agencies recognize the importance of the upcoming phase of the peacebuilding process and enhancing stability in Darfur in order to rebuild what was destroyed by years of conflict and repair the social fabric. This will be done through development projects that address the root causes of the conflict so that Darfur can contribute again to building the Sudan. Therefore, we call on the international community through all its institutions — the United Nations, donor States and others — to provide the necessary financial and development support and to stand with the Government of the Sudan to implement those plans as swiftly as possible. We also underscore that the Sudanese Government is determined to continue to address the consequences and remnants of the conflict, provide security and restore State authority throughout Darfur in order to enable peacebuilding efforts and enhance stability.

The reality on the ground in Darfur has developed resolutely. We have started to see signs of that reflected in the respective reports issued by various entities of the United Nations and of the African Union Commission, as well as during various visits, including by Council members. It is also reflected in the removal of the Sudan from the list of violations against children and in the joint report of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the AU Commission. All this has culminated in today's adoption of resolution 2429 (2018), which we welcome. Today, we should celebrate this joint achievement. The adoption of the resolution reaffirms that life in Darfur has returned to normal after years of conflict and that the UNAMID formula has proven to be successful.

The Government of my country has played a leading role in accordance with our primary responsibility to protect our citizens and our national sovereignty. That has taken place in extremely complicated circumstances, including regional tensions, the spread of small deadly arms, human trafficking and terrorism. I assure the Council that the Government of the Sudan stands ready to continue to cooperate with UNAMID and other United Nations entities in order to bring normalcy to the situation in Darfur.

It is my pleasure to tell you, Mr. President, that the implementation of the resolution has started with the declaration made on 12 July by the President of the Republic of the Sudan on a complete ceasefire, which we have already reported on. It also has started with the positive assessment issued yesterday by the Implementation Follow-Up Commission of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, which includes the Sudan, neighbouring countries and permanent members of Security Council, as well as partners of peace, the United Nations Secretariat and regional organizations.

In conclusion, we are pleased yet again to reaffirm our great thanks and appreciation to all our friends around the world. We are sincerely grateful to them, as they have stood with integrity, strength and honour for the cause of peace in the Sudan. We thank the countries with wich we have engaged in dialogue, which we hope will lead to stronger bilateral relations. We also reiterate our thanks to Council members.

The Government of the Sudan is determined to honour its commitment to peace in our country and with our neighbours and the world.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.8312

Security Council

Seventy-third year

Provisional

8312th meeting

Monday, 16 July 2018, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Orrenius Skau	(Sweden)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
	China	Mr. Yao Shaojun
	Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Adom
	Equatorial Guinea	Mrs. Melc Colifa
	Ethiopia	Ms. Guadey
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Kuwait	Mr. Alotaibi
	Netherlands	Mrs. Gregoire Van Haaren
	Peru	Mr. Duclos
	Poland	Mr. Lewicki
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mr. Cohen

Agenda

The situation in Libya

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18-22408 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

World Cup

The President: Let me begin by congratulating France on its victory in the World Cup Final yesterday. I would also like to compliment Russia on a very successful tournament. Over the past four weeks in this building, I think we have all seen the power of sports to bring people together.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Libya

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Libya to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Ghassan Salamé, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, to participate in this meeting.

Mr. Salamé is joining the meeting via video teleconference from Tripoli.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2018/429, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Salamé. I shall provide a briefing in my capacity as representative of the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), concerning Libya.

I give the floor to Mr. Salamé.

Mr. Salamé: Allow me to congratulate Sweden on its presidency of the Security Council this month. I am grateful for this opportunity to brief members of the Security Council on our work in Libya.

For the first few months of this year, Libya enjoyed relative quiet from military actions. The United Nations helped create that lull. By reviving the political process with the delivery of the action plan for Libya, we provided a peaceful means to be heard and the prospect of obtaining official positions. With that has come increased dialogue and fluidity between the localities and the political camps. The number of civilians killed during the exchange of fire fell to only four in March, and five in April. We capitalized on that positive environment. Let me share four examples.

First, we provided a platform for reconciliation agreements and discussion, opening our good offices to all. We have hosted meetings on the most contentious issues — for example, meetings on land property grievances and consultations between internally displaced persons and those from the areas from which they have been displaced.

Secondly, we supported the conduct of local elections, which took place in Zawiya on 12 May. Voter registration is currently ongoing for similar elections in the towns of Bani Walid and Dirge. Dozens of additional municipal elections are expected to be held this year.

Thirdly, we have re-established the United Nations in Libya — in Tripoli where most of the Mission now resides and in Benghazi where our office will open in the next few weeks.

Fourthly, — and I am particularly proud of this — we have concluded the consultative phase of the national conference process. Over the past 14 weeks, we have held, thanks to our dedicated partner the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, more than 75 meetings in Libya and abroad. More than 7,000 Libyans — a quarter of them women — participated. Two thousand submissions were received online. One hundred and thirty thousand followers joined the consultative process on social media, while generating half a million comments. Digital messaging has reached over 1.8 million persons. Furthermore, the proceedings were covered in great detail by the Libyan media.

That bottom-up process is an integral part of the action plan. It puts the Libyan people at the heart of the political process, whoever or wherever they may be. For many communities, that was the first time that they were actively engaged in the political process and consulted on the future of their nation. Specific events were held for women, internally displaced persons and young people, while others targeted far-away communities in the south, abroad and constituencies previously excluded. The local national conference consultations have provided tremendous insight into the hopes, fears and vision of the Libyan people for a way forward. The next phase of the national conference

is the distillation of the thousands of pages of reports into a full and final one, with national conclusions and recommendations to support the next steps to complete the transition. The date and the venue of the final event will be determined soon.

Any political progress is linked to the absence of military activity on the ground. Regrettably, the past two months have been marked by military actions and violent developments, thereby diverting attention and losing some of the momentum we had gained. First, in the eastern city of Derna, the Libyan National Army move to take control of the city led to two months of battle. The conflict ignited divides across the country, and though the Libyan National Army is now in control of the city, small-scale fighting continues. We then witnessed the events in the oil crescent. On 14 June, a coalition of armed groups, reportedly including foreign mercenaries, attempted to seize control of facilities in the oil crescent region. They successfully captured them, entailing numerous casualties and significant damage to critical infrastructure. The Libyan National Army recaptured the area within a week in a move most expected to re-establish the status quo, where management of the fields would have reverted to the internationally recognized National Oil Corporation, which operates under the Government of National Accord. However, on 25 June the Libyan National Army announced that it would transfer management of the oil facilities in the oil crescent and of other areas under its control to a non- recognized national oil corporation that exists in the east under a parallel authority.

Subsequently, the official National Oil Corporation declared force majeure on the oil terminals of Sidra, Ra's Lanuf, Marsa Al-Hariga and Zuetina. As a result, 850,000 barrels per day of crude oil were prevented from being exported. It is estimated that Libya lost more than $900 million. The course of events drove a wedge through the middle of the country, thereby deepening division between institutions and regions. The Secretary-General released a statement on the matter and recalled all of the relevant Security Council resolutions, while offering the good offices of the United Nations. I have spent the past two weeks reaching out to the various Libyan actors, while shuttling back and forth to find a solution to the misguided crisis. I was not alone in that. The efforts and support of many Libyans and numerous Member States were invaluable.

On 11 July, control reverted to the National Oil Corporation, and production resumed. The end of the immediate crisis has brought a collective sigh of relief, but it is not the end of the matter. Events have brought to the fore the underlying issues that are plaguing the country and that I have repeatedly outlined to the Council, namely, frustrations over the distribution of wealth and the endemic plundering of resources. If those matters are not expeditiously addressed, I fear that the agreements made to resume oil production will not hold, and it will be difficult to advance the political process.

The Mission will redouble its efforts to push for economic reforms, as the very stability and unity of the country are at stake. If there has been a silver lining to events, it is the fact that various authorities in Libya now accept that they need to take action to protect the country's wealth. The request submitted to the Council by the Government of National Accord for a review of the official Central Bank of Libya and the parallel central bank in the east is a welcome first step to bring transparency to the finances of Libya. I encourage Council members to consider the request in a positive light. If the economy of predation is to be broken, its methods must be laid bare, and, for that, Libya needs all our support.

Libyans long to be rid of their current patchwork of institutions. The national conference consultations taught us that the Libyan people want clear and effective leadership by legitimate bodies, brought about by elections. It is telling that, although only 600,000 people voted for the House of Representatives in 2014, already 1 million have recently registered to vote in the next elections. However, a handful of people defy that popular desire. The few who benefit from the status quo will, if left unchecked, do whatever they can to hinder elections. Unfortunately, they can do much, especially as they hold crucial, and too often lucrative, official positions. Without the right conditions, it would be unwise to hold elections. Without sending clear and firm messages to those who would attempt to stall or disrupt elections, such conditions will not be met.

To the leaders of Libya, I say that it is time to return control to the citizens. At the international meeting in Paris on 29 May, the Prime Minister, the Heads of Libya's House of Representatives and High State Council and the Head of the Libyan National Army committed to engage constructively to enable elections to take place by the end of the year. That deadline is congruent with the action plan. I urge them to stand by their commitment and for others to join

them. Furthermore, the deadline that they agreed on for the adoption of legislation necessary for elections is fast approaching.

Although we welcomed the resumption of deliberations by the House of Representatives on 25 and 26 June, and once again today, on necessary legislation for a referendum on the constitutional draft, that is not enough. It has been evident that many members of the House of Representatives, who last month completed their fourth year in office, have not demonstrated any enthusiasm in terms of their attendance or of adopting viable electoral legislation. Members of the House of Representatives should take notice. Libyans are demanding the holding of elections and becoming impatient with those who are finding multiple ways and means to postpone that moment. I recently met with the Speaker of the House. He promised a vote on a law for the referendum of the Constitution within the next two weeks and that electoral legislation would be voted on immediately thereafter. I truly hope that that pledge will be honoured this time. I urge the members the Council to pressure the House of Representatives to deliver on its historic responsibility and achieve that goal in a timely fashion.

A constitutional framework is required to hold elections and end the transition. Since my last briefing (see S/PV.8263), I have engaged in broad consultations on the matter of how and when to establish a new Constitution for the country, while speaking with senior Libyan judges and constitutional experts from every side, as well as with the Libyan people. Both experts and the public agree that a clear constitutional framework is a national priority. However, they are divided on how to proceed. Many would like to see a referendum on the current draft constitution, while others completely reject the text. It is a complex issue with no easy options or straightforward solutions. It is exactly because of that complexity that the international community must show unity. Once we reach a reasonable level of conformity of views among the Libyans, which we are working on, the international community must stand together behind that Libyan vision. If even a single Member State chooses to act alone, the process will not advance.

Technical preparations are under way for elections that are scheduled to be held at the end of the year. Officers are preparing and the planning process is moving along swiftly. Electoral security arrangements are being worked on, including by the newly established unit for those matters in the Ministry of the Interior. While the terrorist attack against the High National Elections Commission devastated much of its headquarters, I am pleased to report that on 12 June, the Commission was granted a new compound. There is much work to be done to refurbish the premises and, accordingly, concerted efforts are being made by the Government, the United Nations and international partners to renovate the buildings and replace the many items destroyed during the attack. I am happy to report that yesterday the Government of National Accord approved 66 million Libyan dinars to fund the elections.

The decision of the Security Council to impose sanctions on six leaders of human trafficking networks was a positive step towards accountability for exploitation and human rights abuses. Such progress notwithstanding, impunity continues to reign in Libya. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the escalation of fighting and violence, as witnessed over the past two months in Derna and elsewhere in the country. Concerns remain about human rights abuses, including summary executions and extrajudicial arrests. I reiterate the call on all parties to the conflict to fully respect international humanitarian law, including by taking all feasible precautions to protect civilians and ensure that the wounded and sick — civilians and those who participated in the hostilities — are cared for, including through medical evacuations. As in other areas in Libya where conflict has erupted, the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator and partners are providing humanitarian assistance. Despite impeded access, life-saving materials have been delivered, such as medicine by the World Health Organization and assistance to displaced persons, including 1,000 kits for children. Additional assistance will be required, in particular in the areas of health, shelter and mine action.

With regard to the city of Tawergha, only a small number of people have returned. The conditions for a safe and dignified return remain insufficient, as basic infrastructure and services are lacking. At the start of the month, demining teams were finally allowed to enter the area and commence work. The current plight of internally displaced persons is unsustainable from a political and financial perspective, given the lack of available resources to support them. They should be given the right to integrate in their host communities as efforts are made to facilitate their return.

Libya must urgently reverse the deterioration in public service delivery. The United Nations is

working with the Libyan authorities, in particular with municipalities across the country, to address the challenges. However, without a resolution to the country's underlying economic problems, the situation will remain an uphill battle. The human rights situation and the humanitarian needs of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers remain dire. While some improvements have been made in official detention centres, there are many unofficial installations to which we do not have access.

I am grateful for the continued support of the members of the Council and of key Member States actively engaged in supporting an end to the crisis in Libya. I warmly note the arrival of the new Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Libya, Stephanie Williams, as a further reinforcement of our efforts. The status quo in Libya cannot be sustained. The country is in decline. The crisis in the oil crescent gave us a glimpse of what is in store if tangible progress is not made now: economic collapse, the breakdown of public services and more frequent and intense outbreaks of violence. In a country where terrorists lurk; where criminals are waiting to engage in the trafficking in migrants; where foreign mercenaries are increasing in numbers; and where the oil industry hangs in the balance, this situation should be of concern to all. In order to help the Libyan people chart a course to the future they deserve, the unified support of the Council, Member States involved in Libya and our regional partner organizations is vital.

The President: I thank Mr. Salamé for his briefing.

I shall now give a briefing in my capacity as representative of the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya.

In accordance with paragraph 24 (e) of resolution 1970 (2011) of 26 February 2011, I have the honour to report to the Security Council on the work of the Committee established by the same resolution. The report covers the period from 22 May to 16 July, during which time the Committee met once in informal consultations and conducted additional work via the written silence procedure.

On 7 June the Committee approved the designation of six individuals as subject to the assets freeze and travel ban measures, in accordance with paragraph 11 (a) of resolution 2213 (2015). Prior to their listing, the Committee held informal consultations on 25 May to discuss the proposal, in which Libya also participated. As of 26 June, the Committee is considering a proposal for the designation of another individual against several designation criteria.

Concerning the arms embargo, the Committee responded to two requests for guidance, received from Malta and Malaysia respectively, which touched on the scope and implementation of that measure. The response to Malaysia confirmed the publicly available entries on the sanctions list of the Committee. The Committee also received additional information from the Kingdom of the Netherlands regarding previously exempted items.

With respect to the assets freeze, the Committee received three notifications from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, invoking paragraph 19 (a) of resolution 1970 (2011), regarding the legal expenses of a listed individual, Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi, and a listed entity, the Libyan Investment Authority. The Committee also received some information from Malaysia on its implementation of the assets-freeze.

With regard to the measures aimed at preventing illicit exports of petroleum from Libya, the Committee received information from Libya, as well as from the Panel of Experts, regarding an attempt by a vessel to carry out an illicit export of crude oil from Marsa Al Hariga port in Libya. The Committee dispatched letters to the reported flag State and to the reported State of a company allegedly involved in the matter.

During the period under review, the Committee received communications from the focal point for de-listing, established pursuant to resolution 1730 (2006), in connection with the de-listing requests from the travel-ban measure of Aisha Al-Qadhafi and Safia Fakash Al-Barassi. Those requests are currently under the review stage stipulated in paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 1730 (2006). The Committee has approved a travel ban exemption request from Safia Farkash Al-Barassi. During the reporting period, the Committee received, and responded to, a letter from Libya regarding certain content of the last final report of the Panel of Experts (S/2017/466). The Committee also referred the matter to the Panel for its follow-up, as appropriate.

Lastly, on 5 March the Committee agreed to take follow-up action on six of the eight recommendations contained in the interim report of the Panel, which in

various ways aimed at improving the implementation of the arms embargo, the assets-freeze and the measures in relation to attempts to illicitly export petroleum from Libya. On three of the six recommendations, more specifically referring to the arms embargo and the assets-freeze, the Committee had agreed to task the Panel with providing additional information. During the reporting period, the Committee received additional information from the Panel and is currently considering any further follow-up action.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to those Council members who wish to make statements.

Mr. Inchauste Jordán (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): We are grateful for the report presented by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission of Support in Libya (UNSMIL), Mr. Ghassan Salamé, to whom we reiterate our support for the outstanding work he continues to do. Similarly, we are grateful for the report provided by Ambassador Carl Orrenius Skau on the activities of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), concerning Libya.

While taking note of the work carried out by the Special Representative during the reporting period, it is also necessary to reaffirm the importance of the full implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement in order to complete and finalize the transition period. To that end, it is essential that all parties and actors involved commit themselves to the action plan promoted by the Special Representative. We call on them to engage in dialogue and to fulfil all their commitments in order to achieve an outcome that meets the interests and aspirations of the Libyan people.

We underscore the conclusion of the first phase of the national conference, which was held in May, at which more than 40 meetings were held in 27 Libyan cities and towns and in which the Libyan people expressed their will to achieve a united country with competent and credible institutions that redistribute resources fairly, and above all expressed their aspiration to have unified security and order institutions capable of guaranteeing their security and protecting their sovereignty. In that regard, we echo the message of presidential statement S/PRST/2018/11, of 6 June, and express our support for all efforts to achieve definitive stability in Libya.

We also take note of the commitment made by the parties to holding parliamentary and presidential elections at the end of this year. To that end and within the framework of Libya's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, it is important that the necessary consultations on the new constitution take place expeditiously and that necessary legislation be developed to establish clearly and concretely the elements of and requirements for carrying out those elections. Similarly, policy development is essential for the establishment of formal institutions that are capable of guaranteeing the integrity of that process.

Along the same lines, the registration of nearly 2.5 million people must serve to ensure the active participation of the entire population, especially women, who make up almost half of the electorate. We are confident that the collaboration and technical assistance of UNSMIL throughout that process will be key to achieving that goal.

We welcome the joint visit of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Mine Action Service to the cities of Benghazi and Misrata to assess the situation on the ground and to participate in meetings organized by civil society on mine action and humanitarian demining activities in order to ensure the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons and their free movement.

Despite those positive developments, there has been an alarming increase in violence and fighting between the parties. In particular, the escalation of violence in Derna is clearly a threat to the political process and the security of the population. According to the reports of various United Nations agencies, there has been considerable damage to civilian infrastructure owing to military action, including against schools, mosques and private homes, as well as hospitals and health-care centres, which have had to suspend their functions. Regrettably, violence throughout the Libyan territory has resulted in at least 16 fatalities and nearly 20 serious injuries as a result of those clashes and the use of explosive devices in public and civil service spaces. My delegation reiterates once again its call on the parties and local actors to lay down their weapons, respect international humanitarian law and avoid any rhetoric that claims violence as a means of achieving any objective, since such attitudes threaten the lives of innocent people and undermine the progress made so far in implementing the Libyan Political Agreement.

Furthermore, we express our concern about the events that occurred in Ras Lanuf and Es Sider oil fields in the Libyan crescent region and about the measures implemented in managing the oil installations and the production of oil and its by-products, which considerably affected the production and export of those products to the detriment of the Libyan people's interest. While the situation was resolved through dialogue at the beginning of the month, it is important for all parties to bare in mind that the only legitimate entity with the power to administer the oil resources in the country is the National Oil Corporation which belongs to the Government of National Accord, as set forth in resolutions 2259 (2015), 2278 (2016) and 2362 (2017). In that understanding and in accordance with the Libyan Political Agreement, all parties and actors involved must respect and strengthen State institutions, establish channels for dialogue and negotiation when they find themselves in disagreement, and avoid the use of weapons and violence at all times.

In conclusion, we reiterate that there is no military solution to the conflict. We therefore call on all parties to join in the ongoing efforts to maintain an ongoing dialogue to achieve a peaceful, orderly and inclusive political transition that responds to the interests of the Libyan people and allows them to freely and consensually define their future. To that end, compliance with the Libyan Political Agreement, recognized through resolution 2259 (2015) and reaffirmed through presidential statement S/PRST/2017/26 of 14 December 2017, is imperative.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): At the outset, I would like to congratulate the French football team on their World Cup victory and the Croatian team on an excellent game. I would also like to commend the Russian Federation on its superb organization of the World Cup. It was a very interesting time, and everyone very much enjoyed it.

We thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ghassan Salamé and Carl Orrenius Skau for their comprehensive updates on the situation in Libya and on the activities of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), concerning Libya.

My delegation expresses its concern about the lack of progress in finding solutions for a political settlement through dialogue among the main stakeholders in Libya. That has a serious negative impact on the economic, social and humanitarian situation in the country. The recent escalation of the situation in Libya's oil crescent is a clear indication of such developments. We join the Secretary-General's call for all natural resources, as well as their production and revenues, to be under the control of the recognized Libyan authorities.

Developments in the oil crescent have proven once again that efforts should be aimed at establishing a lasting political dialogue among all Libyan stakeholders aimed at seeking a political settlement to the crisis by implementing confidence-building measures. Those efforts should contribute to the unification of Libyan Government institutions, including its security and armed forces. The absence of such a dialogue will continue to create a breeding ground for the emergence and illegal activities of terrorists, extremists and other destructive forces in Libya.

Our delegation believes that the adoption of a new constitution will create the legal framework necessary for generating the institutional and administrative structures needed to build lasting peace in Libya. Special attention should be paid to adopting appropriate electoral legislation, which along with voter registration, will create the necessary conditions for holding general elections.

The international community and the Council in particular should place a greater focus on the situation in Libya, along with the Syrian and the Yemeni crisis among others. The instability in Libya has had a significant impact on the situation in the region of the Middle East and North Africa. All the efforts of the international community to resolve the situation in Libya should be conducted under the leadership of the United Nations. My delegation reiterates its support for the action plan of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Salamé and commends the committed work of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya on the ground.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Libya.

Mr. Elmajerbi (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I wish to congratulate France on its victory at the 2018 FIFA World Cup and Russia on having organized the tournament well.

I congratulate the Swedish delegation on its accession to the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. I also wish to thank Mr. Ghassan

Salamé, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his briefing on recent political and economic developments in Libya. I would further like to thank His Excellency Ambassador Carl Orrenius Skau for the briefing he delivered on behalf of the Chair of the Sanctions Committee on Libya established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011). I congratulate Ms. Stephanie Williams on her appointment as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Recent meetings of the various Libyan parties, the latest of which was held in Paris, represented a glimmer of hope for all Libyan people that the country might be extricated from the horrors of political paralysis that it has endured in recent years, which negatively affected all aspects of the life of Libyan citizens, including by promoting instability and deteriorating security in the country. In this regard, we commend all efforts aimed at uniting the Libyan people and call up the international community to urge the Libyan parties to reach agreement and arrive at a settlement that is acceptable to all so as to release Libya from its ongoing ordeal.

We reaffirm the need to organize parliamentary and presidential elections, which should be preceded by the implementation of the constitutional and legal arrangements necessary to the holding of the elections. We also reaffirm the importance of creating a climate conducive to the organization of these elections by calling on all parties to accept their results. We caution against the continuing search for solutions that are at odds with the resolutions and declarations of the Security Council, the most recent of which was presidential statement S/PRST//2018/11, of 6 June 2018.

Despite all the efforts undertaken at the international and national levels, it is clear and unfortunate that some parties are aggravating the day-to-day lives of Libyan people by acting with the sole aim of causing the current situation to persist. They obstruct any attempt to restore security and stability in the country and to unite Libyan parties under the country's flag. The recent attacks against oil facilities in the oil crescent region by a lawless group, led by an individual who is currently being prosecuted in a Libyan court, triggered a crisis that has ended thanks to the good-faith efforts of many individuals in Libya and the world and that threatened cause a significant deterioration in the Libyan economy. In this regard, we welcome the joint communiqué issued by the United States, France, the United Kingdom and Italy on 12 July, wherein they welcomed the resumption of operations by the National Oil Corporation, which are critical to all Libyans owing to the company's legitimacy in accordance with Security Council resolutions and the Libyan Political Agreement. These countries also welcomed the contributions of the Libyan National Army to stabilizing the oil sector.

We call on both the Security Council and the international community to grasp the fact that critical measures are necessary against anyone who impedes the interests and aspirations of the Libyan people to establish a civil State in which they enjoy stability, democracy and justice.

The United Nations resolutions calling for Libyan ownership of the political settlement have not been translated into reality. Negative foreign interference in Libya has exacerbated the situation and created an environment conducive to crises and mistrust among the Libyan parties. We reaffirm the fact that the Libyan people reject this ongoing, unjustified interference. They aspire to build their country's institutions and establish a balanced relationship with the world, based on mutual respect and common interests in line with the principles of the United Nations and international law.

We call on those States to understand the logical equation whereby Libyan stability is inextricably linked to their own stability. Indeed, without stability in Libya, these countries will encounter major issues that will in turn cause other problems in those countries, such as illicit migration, accusations of violations of migrants' rights, human trafficking, the existence of terrorist groups, and so on. All of these phenomena and problems can be eradicated only if there is a good will and good faith on the part of these States, and specifically if they help to find a solution for the political stalemate that has paralysed the country.

My country has called upon the Security Council to set up an international technical commission under the auspices of the United Nations that will consider the revenues, expenditures and other transactions of the Libyan Central Bank in Tripoli and Al Bayda. This request is geared towards safeguarding the Libyan people's interests and is a sine qua non in the wake of divisions among the Libyans. This step would lead to uniting the Libyan financial institutions in order to eliminate financial corruption and achieve economic stability in the country. We hope that the Council

will establish the committee so that it can assume its functions as soon as possible.

In conclusion, we reiterate what we have already stated to the Council with regard to the high-level meeting convened by the Secretary-General on 20 September 2017, at which a United Nations action plan was announced with a view to bringing an end to the crisis in Libya. We reaffirm the key role the United Nations must play in achieving a settlement to the Libyan crisis. In this regard, the Government of my country reiterates its commitment to cooperating with the United Nations through the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, ending political divisions, reunifying institutions and moving towards a new horizon that will end the suffering that has plagued the daily lives of Libyans.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussions on this subject.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.